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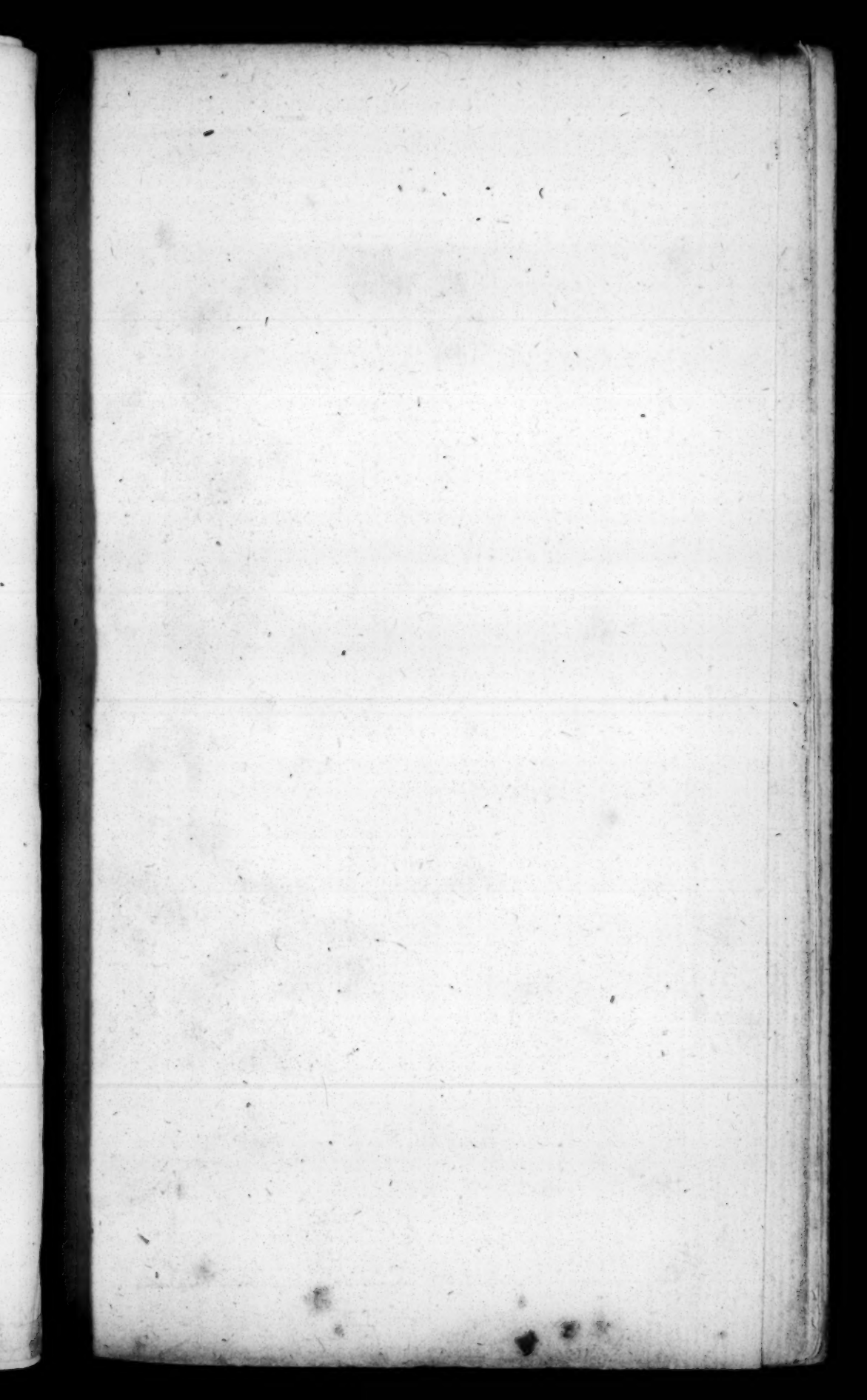
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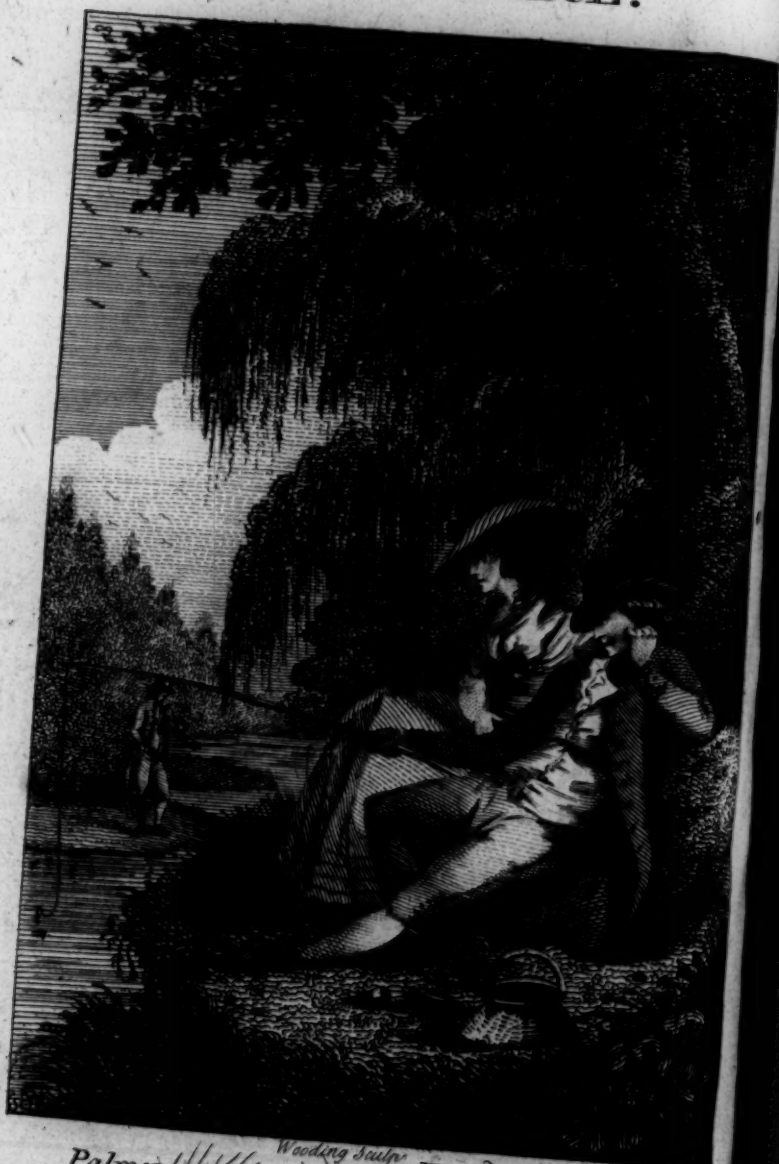
ON THE

TR. OF ANGLING





# FRONTISPIECE.



Published by C. Stalker April 9. 1787.

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A  
CONCISE TREATISE  
ON THE  
ART OF ANGLING.

Confirmed by actual Experience,

AND  
MINUTE OBSERVATIONS, <sup>3</sup>

Exempt from Redundancies, and superfluities, which  
tend more to perplex, than instruct.

WITH

The proper Methods for Breeding and Feeding Fish,  
and of making Fish ponds, Stews, &c. with several  
Arcana never before made Public.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

THE COMPLEAT FLY - FISHER.

As in successive course the seasons roll,  
So circling pleasures recreate the soul.  
When genial spring a living warmth bestows,  
And o'er the year her verdant mantle throws,  
No swelling inundation hides the grounds,  
But crystal currents glide within their bounds;  
The finny brood their wonted haunts forsake,  
Float in the sun, and skim along the lake,  
With frequent leap they range the shallow streams  
Their silver coats reflect the dazzling beams.  
Now let the Fisherman his toils prepare,  
And arm himself with ev'ry watry snare;  
His hooks, his lines peruse with careful eye,  
Increase his tackle, and his rod retye.

GAY.

BY THOMAS BEST, GENT.

Late of his Majesty's Drawing Room in the Tower.

L O N D O N,

Printed for C. STALKER, *Stationer's Court, Ludgate Street,*  
H. TURPIN, *St. John Street, West-Smithfield,* and to be had  
at all Booksellers and Fishing Tackle Shops in Town and  
Country.

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# P R E F A C E.

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*ICHTHYOLOGY*, or a description of fishes, and the various Methods for taking them by the art of angling, has been treated on by many excellent authors, and in a very scientific manner: but in general, their works abound with so much prolixity and tautology, that although they may benefit the young angler, yet they burthen his memory, and lead him into an inextricable *Labrinth*. In the following treatise, which is founded on actual experience, and with compilations from the best authors who have written on that subject; I have carefully avoided making any unnecessary repetitions,



# P R E F A C E.

petitions, and have laid the whole out in so a plain and familiar method, that the lowest capacity must comprehend it, and as it is of a very small compass the angler may use it as a vade mecum, and whenever he is at a loss instantly make a reference. The list of flies in the second part, which is undoubtedly the best now extant, I am indebted to the ingenious Mr. *Cotton* for, the best fly-fisher that ever was, nor do I believe that there will ever be another *nec simile aut secundum*. His flies with some little deviation, I have been equally successful with as well in southern, as northern rivers; and therefore they may be truly deemed, the standard for *artificial Fly-Fishing*.

Were I to launch out into the praise of angling, its antiquity, and the noble personages who now profess, and have professed themselves lovers of that pleasant recreation, it would require a treatise of itself to perform it in: therefore I can here only say that it undoubtedly is, the most rational, innocent and entertaining amusement that exists; neither hurting families by the expences which attend

## P R E F A C E.

attend it (as many other sports do) nor running the professor of it into any kind of danger whatever, but affords him a pleasing relaxation, opens to him all the beauties of the universe, and alienates his mind from a turbulent and noisy world, soothes it in all its inquietudes, and renders it (on account of its retirement) fit to partake of another state; which, neither the fury of a mad multitude, nor all devouring time can possibly make any impression on. The variety also that attends it, adds very much to render it more pleasant and agreeable, and as an angler cannot always expect to have good sport, he may if he is possessed of a happy genius, by viewing the luxuriant works of the creation, make ample amends for that deficiency.

The following picturesque lines represent the angler in a most desirable situation.

In genial spring, beneath the quiv'ring shade,

Where cooling vapours breathe along the mead,

The

## P R E F A C E.

The patient fisher takes his silent stand,  
Intent, his angle trembling in his hand ;  
With looks unmov'd he hopes the scaly breed,  
And eyes the dancing cork and bending reed.  
Our plenteous streams a various race supply,  
The bright-ey'd perch, with fins of Tyrian dye,  
The silver eel, in shining volumes roll'd,  
The yellow carp, in scales be dropp'd with gold,  
Swift trouts, diversify'd with crimson stains,  
And pikes, the tyrants of the wat'ry plains.

POPE's Windsor Forest.

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Bream  
Pike  
Pearcb  
Tench  
Flounder  
Chub  
Barbel  
Eel  
Roach*

*Date*



# C O N T E N T S.

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Gudgeon  
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Bleak  
Minnow  
Loach  
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## C H A P III.

*The names and the best manner of dubbing the different Artificial Flies which are generally known, and will kill fish on any water, from the beginning of March, to the end of September.*

## C H A P IV.

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## C H A P V.

*Of the principal rivers in England, and particularly of the Thames.*

*A Con-*

## C H A P. I.

*A Description of Fish according to Natural History,  
with the best Method of breeding, and feeding, &c.*

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**F**ISH in natural history are animals that live in the water, as their proper place of abode. Naturalists observe a world of wisdom and design, in the structure of fishes and their conformation to the element they reside in.

Their bodies are cloathed and guarded in the best manner, with scales or shells, suitable to their respective circumstances, the dangers they are exposed to, and the motion and business they are to perform.

The centre of gravity is placed in the fittest part of the body for swimming, and their shape most commodious for making way through the water, and most agreeable to geometrical rules.

They have several parts peculiar to themselves; as fins, to balance and keep them upright; an air bladder, or swim to enable them to rise or sink to any height or depth of water, at pleasure, gills, or *branchiæ* whereby they respire; as land animals do by lungs; the tail an instrument of progressive motion which serves to row them forward, eyes peculiarly formed to enable them to correspond to all the convergencies and divergencies of rays, which the variations of the watery medium, and the refractions thereof may occasion, in which respect they bear a near resemblance to birds.

Fishes are distinguished into sea, or salt water fish, *pisces marini*; as the whale, herring, mackarel, &c. river or fresh water fish, *pisces fluviales*: as the pike, trout, &c. and pond or lake fish: as the carp, tench, &c. to which may be added, others which abide indifferently in fresh water, or salt; as salmon, shad fish, &c.

The English fish that we have in our ponds, rivers, &c. are as follow: 1. *Cyprinus*, the Carp. 2. *Tinca*, the Tench. 3. *Cyprinus latus*, the Bream, or *Bruma*. 4. *Orfus germanorum*, the Rudd, Oerve, or Nerfling. 5. *Capito*, seu *Cephalus*, the Chubb, or Chevin. 6. *Barbus*, the Barbel. 7. *Leucissus*, the Dace, or *Dare*. 8. *Rutilus*, seu *Rubellio*, the Roach. 9. *Alburnus*, the Bleak, or Bley. 10. *Gobius fluviatilis*, the Gudgeon. 11. *Cobites fluviatilis barbatula*, the Loche, or Loach. 12. *Varius*, seu *phoxinus lavis*, the Pink, or Minnow.

These twelve are called *Malacostomi*, or leather-mouthed fishes; because they have no teeth in their jaws, but only deep down in their mouths. To proceed. 13. *Passer fluviatilis*, five *amphibius*, the Flounder. 14. *Anguilla*, the Eel. 15. *Gobio fluviatilis*, the Bull-head, or Miller's Thumb. 16. *Thymallus*, the Gragling, Grayling, or Umber. 17. *Salmo*, the Salmon. 18. *Trutta fluviatilis duum generum*, the Trout. 19. *Albula Salmoni similis*, the Guinniad. 20. *Trutta Salmonata*, the Salmon Trout. 21. *Trutta Lacustris*, the Scurf, or Bull Trout. 22. *Umbla minor* *Gesn.* the Red Charr, or Welch Torgoch. 23. *Carpio lacus Benaci*, the GUILT, or Gilt Charr. 24. *Lucius*, the Pike, or Pickerel. 25. *Perca fluviatilis minor*, seu *aurata*, the Ruff. 26. *Piscis aculeatus vulgaris*, seu *pungitius Alberti*, the Common Prickle Back, Sharp-ling, or Banstickle. 27. *Piscis Aculeatus minor*, the Lesser Prickle Back. 28. *Perca fluviatilis*, the Perch.

Fish considered as a food, make a considerable addition to the furniture of the table; and the breeding, feeding,



feeding, &c. thereof is a peculiar art and very necessary for the sake of œconomy, that every country gentleman should know something of the method. To this relate the ponds, stews, &c. which shall be described in their proper places.

It may not be here unacceptable to give the Reader some general rules on the subject.

*Rule 1<sup>st</sup>.* FOR BREEDING FISH. The quality of the pond, water, &c. proper to this end is scarce determinable by any certain symptom, or rule : for some very promising ponds do not prove serviceable that way. One of the best indications of a breeding pond, is when there is good store of rushes and grazing about it, with gravelly shoals ; such as horse ponds usually have : so that when a water takes thus to breeding, with a few *Milters* and *Spawners*, two or three of each, a whole country may be stocked in a short time. Eels and Perch are of very good use to keep down the stock of fish ; for they prey much upon the spawn and fry of bred fish, and will probably destroy the superfluity of them. As for pike, tench, roach, perch, &c. they are observed to breed almost in any waters, and very numerously ; but eels never breed in standing waters that are without springs ; and in such are neither found, nor increase by putting in : yet where springs are, they are never wanting, though not put in. And what is most strange of all, no person ever saw in an eel the least token of propagation, either by *milt*, or *spawn* ; so that whether they breed at all, and how they are produced, are propositions equally mysterious, and never yet clearly resolved.

*Rule 2<sup>d</sup>* FOR FEEDING FISH. Observe the following remarks.

1. In a *Stew*, thirty, or forty carps may be kept from October to March, without feeding ; and by fishing with *trammels*, or *flews* in March or April, you may take from your great waters, to recruit your stews : but you must not fail to feed all the summer,



from March to October again, as constantly as cropped chickens are fed ; and it will prove very profitable.

2dly, The constancy and regularity of serving the fish, conduces very much to their eating well and thriving.

3dly, Any sort of grain boiled is good to feed with, especially pease and malt coarse ground : the grains after brewing, while sweet and fresh are very proper ; but one bushel of malt not brewed, will go as far as two of grains : chippings of bread, and orts of a table steeped in tap-droppings of strong beer, or ale, are excellent food for carp. Of these the quantity of two quarts to thirty carps is sufficient ; and so fed morning and evening, is better than once a day only.

There is a sort of food for fish, that may be called accidental, and is no less improving than the best that can be provided ; and this is when the pools happen to receive the waste of commons, where sheep have pasture, the water is enriched by the soil, and will feed a much greater number of carps, than it otherwise would do : and further, the dung that falls from cattle standing in the water in hot weather, is also a very great nourishment to fish.

The best food to raise Pikes to an extraordinary size or fatness, is eels : and without them is not to be done, but in a long time. Setting these aside small perches are the best meat. Breams put into a pike pond, breed exceedingly, and are fit to maintain pikes ; which will take care they do not increase over much. The numerous fry of Roaches and other small fish, which come from the greater pools into the Pike quarters, will likewise be good diet for them. Pikes in all streams, and carp in all hungry springing waters being fed at certain times, will come up, and take their meat almost from your hand.

The best feeding place is towards the mouth of the pond, at the depth of about half a yard ; for by that means the deep will be kept clean and neat ; the meat  
thrown

thrown into the water, without other trouble, will be picked up by the fish, and nothing be lost : yet there are several devices for giving them food, especially pease : as a square board let down with meat on it.

Where fish are fed in larger pools or ponds, when their numbers are great, malt boiled, or fresh grains is the best food. Thus carp may be fed and raised like capons, and tenches will feed as well, but perch are not for a *stew* in feeding time.

As to the benefits that redound from keeping fish, besides furnishing the table, and raising money, your land will be improved, so as to be really worth, and yield more this way than by any other employ whatsoever. For suppose a meadow of *two pounds per acre* ; four acres in pond, will return every year a thousand fed carps, from the least size to fourteen or fifteen inches long ; besides Pikes, Perch, Tench, and other fry : the Carps are saleable and will bring *sixpence, ninepence*, and perhaps *one shilling* each, amounting in all to *twenty-five pounds*, which is *six pounds five shillings per acre*.

## CHAP. II.

*The best Manner of making and chusing Rods, Lines, Hooks, &c.*


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**T**HE best time to provide stocks is in the winter solstice, when the trees have shed their leaves, and the sap is in the roots, for after January the sap ascends again into the trunk and branches, at which time it is improper to gather stocks, or tops, as for the stocks they should be lower grown, and the tops the best rush ground shoots that can be got; not knotty, but proportionable and slender, for if otherwise they will never cast nor strike so well, and the line by reason of their unpliableness, must be much endangered; now when both stock and top are gathered in one season, and as strait as possible to be got, bathe them over a gentle fire, and never use them till they are well seasoned, which will be in one year and four months, but longer keeping them will make them better; and for preserving them when made into rods, both from rotting and being worm-eaten, rub them over thrice a year with sallad, or linseed oil; if they are bored pour in either of the oils, and let them soak therewith for twenty four hours, then pour it out again, and it will preserve them from the least injury. In general the length of the rod is to be determined by the breadth of the river you angle in, but a long  
rod



rod is always of more use, than one too short, provided it is truly made ; one of about five yards and a half long you will experimentally find to be quite sufficient. When you have taken your stocks and tops from the place that you put them in for seasoning, (where they must have remained sixteen months at least,) match them together in just proportion ; and let the rod consist of five or six pieces ; if you ferrel it, observe that they fit with the greatest nicety, and in such a manner as when put all together they may not wriggle in the least, but be in proportion, and strength, as if the whole rod were but one piece. If you bind them together, it must be with thread strongly waxed, having first cut the pieces with a slope, or slant, that they may join each other with the greatest exactness, and then spread a thin layer of shoemaker's wax over the slants, or a glue, which I have set down in the *arcana* for the angler's use : afterwards you must cut about six inches off the top of the rod, and in its place whip on a smooth, round and taper piece of whalebone, and at the top of that a strong loop of horsehair ; then the whole will be compleated, and thus made will always ply with a true bent to the hand. Your fly rods may be made in the same manner, but note, must be much more pliant than the others, and more taper from stock to top. It is of service to them to lay by some time before you use them.

For all fish that bite tenderly a rod made of cane, reed, or bamboo is the best, only be careful when you chuse such a one that it will strike well, and that the medium between the ferrel, and the joint that goes in, is not cut too fine ; for if it is, when you strike a good fish, it is ten to one you will lose some part of your rod, your line, and of course the fish, a misfortune that has often happened to me, before I was acquainted with the above rule.

*A general rod*, is one which serves for trolling, dibbing, and the ground, for the former purpose small  
brass

brass rings, must be whipped all the way up it, at about a foot distance, for the trolling line to run thro', it may likewise be bored in the stock to hold the tops you are not using, that which you use for the troll must be strong, and have a ring on the top whipped on with a piece of quill, to prevent the line being cut, when the voracious pike runs off with your bait to his hold: one of the others must not be so stiff which will serve for Carp, Tench, &c. and the other fine and elastic for Dace and Roach fishing. These kind of rods, which are called *bag-rods*, and go up in a small compass, are to be had at the Fishing Tackle Shops in *London*, but these the best fly-rods, and all sort of tackle are to be bought in the highest perfection, at Mr. *William March's*, No. 186, Fleet-street, a very ingenious man, and capital angler.

*Angling Line.* To make this line, first note, that you are to take care that your hair be round and clear, and free from galls, scales or frets, for a well chosen, even, clear round hair, of a kind of glass colour, will prove as strong as three uneven scabby hairs; then put them in water for a quarter of an hour, when made into lengths, and you will thereby find which of them shrink; then twist them over again; some in the twisting intermingle silk, which is erroneous, yet a line of all silk may do pretty well, though I prefer hair in every mode of angling, except trolling, and then a silk line is best. Now the best colours for lines are forrell, white, and grey; the two last colours for clear waters, and the first for muddy waters, neither is the pale watery green despicable, which is made thus: put a pint of strong allum water, half a pound of foot, a small quantity of juice of walnut leaves into a pipkin, boil them about half an hour, then take it off the fire, and when it is cold steep your hairs in it: or else boil an handful of marygold flowers, with a quart of allum water, till a yellow scum arises, then take half a pound of green copperas, with as much verdegrease, and



and beat them together to a fine powder, and put them and the hair into the allum water, and let them lie in it ten hours or more, then take them out and let them dry. Hair is made brown by steeping it in salt and ale. The best way of forming the hair into lines, is with a new invented engine, to be bought at any of the shops, and is to be used thus. To twist links with this engine, take as many hairs as you intend each shall consist of, and dividing them into three parts, tie each parcel to a bit of fine twine, about six inches long, doubled, and put through the hooks which impend from the machine: then take a piece of lead of a conical figure two inches high, and two in diameter at the base, with a hook at the *apex*, or point; tie your three parcels of hair into one knot, and to this by the hook hang the weight.

*Lastly.* Take a common bottle cork, and into the sides, at equal distances cut three grooves; and placing it so as to receive each division of hairs, begin to twist, you will find the links begin to twist with great evenness at the lead: as it grows tighter shift the cork a little upwards, and when the whole is sufficiently twisted, take out the cork, and tie the links into a knot, and so proceed till you have twisted links sufficient for your line, observing to lessen the number of hairs in each link, in such proportion that the line may be taper.

Your links thus prepared, tie them together into a water knot, then cut off the short ends, about a straw's breadth from the knot, and then whip some waxed silk about the knots, which is much better than inclosing them with wax.

Never either at ground or fly angling fix any hooks to a line that consists of more than three or four links at the most, but always make a small loop at the top and bottom of your line, the use of the one, is to fasten it to your rod, and of the other to affix or remove your *armed hooks*. The line should always be leaded according to the rapidity, or quietness of the river you angle in, therefore

fore as nearly as you can guess, always lead it in such manner, as will sink the bait to the bottom, and permit its motion, without any violent jogging on the ground. Carry the top of your rod even with your hand, beginning at the head of the stream, and letting the bait run downwards, as far as the rod and line will permit, the lead dragging and rolling on the ground. No more of the line must be in the water than will permit the lead to touch the bottom; for you are to keep the line as strait as possible, yet so as not to raise the lead from the bottom. When you have a bite, you may perceive it by your hand and the point of your rod and line: then strike gently and upwards, if you cannot tell which way the fish's head lies, but if you can the contrary way from where it does; first allowing the fish, by a little slackening the line a small time to pouch the bait. This is called angling by hand, and is very killing for trout, grayling, &c.

I shall treat of *Float Fishing* under the description of each fish.

As for your *Fishing Hooks*, they ought to be made of the best tempered steel wire, longish in the shank, and somewhat thick in the circumference, the point even, and strait, let the bending be in the shank. For setting on the hook, or more scientifically speaking, *arming it*, use strong but small silk, lightly waxed with shoemaker's wax; and lay the hair on the inside of the hook, for if it be on the outside, the silk will fret and cut it asunder. There are several sizes of hooks, large ones and small ones, made according to the fish they are designed to take, which, when I come to treat of the different fish, the number of the hook proper for each will be fully expressed.

*Floats* for angling, are of divers kinds: some made of *Muscovy Duck* quills, which are the best for slow waters, but for strong streams, sound cork without flaws or holes, bored through with an hot iron, into which is put a quill of fit proportion, is preferable; pare the  
cork

cork to a pyramidal form, grind it smooth with a pumice stone, then colour it according to your fancy. Floats, whether quill, or cork, must be so poised with shot, when on the line, as to make them cock, that is, stand perpendicular in the water, that the least nibble, or bite may be apparent.

*The materials* most necessary for an angler to have out with him, and which may be all carried in his pockets, are, *lines* coiled up. *Spare links*. Two worm bags, one for *brandlings*, &c. and the other for *lob-worms*. *A plummet* to fix the depth of the water, of a pyramidal form. *A gentle box*. *Floats* and *spare caps*. *Split shot*. *Shoemaker's wax* in a piece of leather. *Silk*. *Hooks* some whipped on, and some loose. *A clearing ring*, which is of use to disengage the hook when intangled. *A landing net*, to land large fish with, and which are made with joints to fold up in a small compass. *The disgorging*, which when a fish has gorged the hook, by putting it down his throat, till you touch the hook, at the same time pulling the line, it will easily come away.



## C H A P. III.

*The general Baits used in Angling, where found, and how preserved.*

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**T**HE reader being furnished with the best rules, relative to his *rods, lines, hooks, &c.* I shall give him a list of the baits in general of use in angling; but shall not enter into a minute detail of them as some authors on the same subject have done (and thereby made their work appear more like a natural history of insects, than any thing else) but give him the general baits, and leave him to make his exceptions himself; which will prove more pleasant to him by his making the trial of different baits himself, and not puzzle him by overloading his memory; neither shall I set down the fish they are best calculated for taking; which would only be a repetition of which he will find fully digested by actual experience, under the description of each fish.

The LOB-WORM, DEW-WORM, GARDEN-WORM,  
TWATCHEL, or TREACHET,

Found in a garden, or church-yard late in a summer's evening, with a lanthorn; when the summer proves a very dry one, they may be forced out of their holes, with the liquor produced, by bruising walnut-tree leaves in water: the best of these, are those which have a red head, a streak down the back, and a broad  
tail

tail, from which they derive the name of *squirrel-tails*.

*Brandlings, Gilt-tails, and Red worms,*

Found in old dunghills, rotten earth, cows dung, hogs dung, but the best are those to be met with in tanner's bark after it is thrown by.

*Marfb, or Meadow-worm,*

Found in marshy ground, or the fertile banks of rivers, are a little blueish, require more scouring than the brandling or gilt tail, and are taken from Candlemas, until Michaelmas.

*Tag-tail,*

Found in marled lands, or meadows after a shower of rain; or early in the morning in March or April if the weather is mild and temperate; and is a most excellent bait.

*How to scour and preserve worms.*

Get a quantity of moss, the best is that which is soft and white, and grows on heaths, but as this is scarce to be had in some parts, in lieu of it any kind that is fresh and sweet; rinse it well from the earth that hangs about, and then wring it very dry; put your worms, and it, into an earthen pot, cover it close that they do not crawl away; and set it in a cool place in summer, and in winter in a warm one, which will prevent the frost from killing them: change the moss every fourth day in summer, and once a week in winter, or at least let the old moss be taken from them; washed, squeezed pretty dry, and put it to them again. If you want them to be quickly scoured a little *bole-armoniack* put to them will accomplish your desire: or you may put them in water for three or four hours, and they will soon be scoured; yet be very weak, but being put



to good moss, they will speedily recover. When the knot near the middle of the *brandling* begins to swell, he is sick ; and for fear they should die, feed them with crumbs of bread, and with the yolk of an egg and sweet cream coagulated over the fire : never steep your worms in moss to scour them above ten days, in which time they will be perfectly fit for use.

*Palmer-fly, Palmer-worm, Wool-bed, or Cankers,*

Found on herbs, plants and trees where they are bred, if not a perfect caterpillar, yet undoubtedly a species thereof ; they gain the name of wool beds from their outward parts being woolly ; these and the May fly, are the foundation of *fly angling*.

*Bobs,*

Found in sandy and mellow ground, and got by following the plough in autumn, are worms as big as two magots, have red heads, and their bodies full of soft guts ; put them in a tub with some of the mould that you gather them in, keep them in a warm place, and they are an excellent bait from the first of November till the middle of April : you may boil them the morning you intend angling in milk and water for two minutes, which will make them tough ; and put them in a box where gum ivy has been rubbed.

*Cow-turd bob, or Clap-bait,*

Found under a cow turd from the beginning of May to Michaelmas ; it is bigger than a gentle ; but very like one ; it is best kept in the same earth you find it in.

*Flag-worms, or Dock-worms,*

Found among flags ; in old pits or ponds, in little husks among the strings or fibres of the roots ; are small worms :

worms : pale, yellow or white as a gentle ; these are very good baits.

*Bark-worm, or Ash-grub,*

Found under the bark of an *oak, ash, elder* or *beech*, especially when felled, and they have lain sometime, or in the hollow of these trees when doated and rotten, it is to be used from the Michaelmas to May, or June. It is very full and white, bent round from the tail to the head ; and the parts resembling a young dor or humble bee.

*Cod-bait, Cad-bait, Cadis-worm, or Case-worm, are one and the same, though of three sorts.*

1st. Found under stones that lie loose and hollow in small brooks, shallow rivers, or very fine gravel, in case or husk, and when fit for use they are yellowish, are bigger than a gentle, with a blackish head. Another sort is found in pits, ponds, ditches, in rushes, water weeds, straw, &c. called ruff coats, or straw worms. The next is a green sort, found in pits, ponds, or ditches in March, coming in before the yellow ones which are not to be fished with till April, and in July they go out of season, the last sort is to be used in the month of August. When you take them to fish with, carry them in woollen bags for the air kills them.

*Gentles, or Maggots, to breed and preserve.*

Take a piece of beast's liver, and with a cross stick, hang it in some corner over a pot or barrel half full of dry clay, and as the gentles grow big, they will fall into the barrel and scour themselves, and be always ready for use whenever you are inclined to fish ; and these gentles may be thus created till after Michaelmas. But if you desire to keep gentles all the year,

then get a dead cat or kite, and let it be fly blown, and when the gentles begin to be alive and to stir, then bury it and them, in moist soft earth, but as free from frost as you can, and these you may dig up at any time when you want to use them ; these will last to March, and about that time turn into flies.

How to find and preserve *Caterpillars, Oak-worms, Cabbage-worms, Colewort-worm, or Grub, Crabtree worm, or Jack, and Grasshoppers.*

Found by beating the branches of an oak, crabtree, or hawthorn, that grow over a public path, or highway ; or upon cabbages, coleworts, &c. Grasshoppers are found in short sun burnt grass, the latter end of June, all July and August. To preserve these baits cut a round bough of fine green barked withy, about the thickness of half one's arm, and taking off the bark about a foot in length, turn both ends together, into the form of an hoop, and fasten them with a needle and thread ; then stop up the bottom with a bung cork : into this put your baits, and tie a colewort leaf over it, and with a red hot iron, bore the bark full of holes, and lay it in the grass every night, in this manner your *cads* may be kept, till they turn to flies : to your *grasshoppers* put grass.

### *Pastes*

Are variously compounded according to the angler's fancy ; but there should always be a little cotton wool, fine lint, or flax, to keep the parts together that they wash not off the hook ; the following compositions make very good pastes.

The blood of sheep hearts, mixed with honey and flour, and worked to a proper consistency : old cheese grated, a little butter sufficient to work it, and coloured with saffron. In winter fat rusty bacon instead of butter. Crumbs of bread worked with honey, and  
moisten-



moistened with gum-ivy water. The inside of a French roll, or crumbs of bread worked well with clean hands with water alone. What fish each of these pastes are proper for, the reader will find under the description of each fish, therefore I shall only make the following observations concerning pastes, which may be of use to young anglers; because founded on experience, note, that in September and all the winter months, when you angle for chub, carp, and bream, with paste, let the bait be as large as a hazle nut: but for roach and dace, the bigness of a pea is sufficient: chuse a still place, use a quill float, a small hook, and strike at the first biting of the fish.

*Baits singularly killing to fish with.*

*Sheep's blood* placed on a trencher till it becomes pretty hard, then cut into small pieces, proportioned to the size of the hook; put a little salt to it, and it will prevent its growing black. *Wheat*, or *malt* boiled soft in milk, and the husk taken off, a good bait either in winter or summer. The *ant* fly found in June, July, August, and the beginning of September, in mole hills or ants nests where they breed, take some of the earth, and the roots of the grass, which grows upon it, and put all in a glass bottle, then gather some of the largest, and blackest ant flies, and put them into the bottle, these are a deadly bait for roach, dace and chub; you must angle with them under water, a hand's breadth from the bottom. The young brood of *wasps*, *hornets*, and *humble bees*, are likewise very good. Also *minnows*, *loaches*, *sharplings*, and *bull heads*. *Snails* black and white, the black one's bellies slit to shew the white. Likewise *cherries*, *blackberries*; *cheese* kept a day or two in wet rags; which makes it tough, or steeped in a little honey. Also *salmon spawn*, which must be boiled, till it is hard enough to stick on the



hook ; and if you wish to preserve it, sprinkle a little salt over it, and get a glazed earthen pot, and put a layer of wool at the bottom of it, and then a little salmon spawn upon that ; then wool again, and then spawn, and so proceed alternately till the pot is filled : it is a most destructive bait in the winter and spring, especially if angled with where salmon are known to spawn ; for there every kind of fish resort in order to devour it.

CHAP.

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## C H A P. IV.

*Of natural Fly Fishing, with a Description of Flies generally used; and a choice Collection of Rules and Hints to be observed in the Art of Angling.*

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**I**N natural *fly fishing* which comes under the heads of *Dibbling*, *Dapeing* and *Dabbing*, is a method with which the largest fish are taken, and requires a great deal of nicety and circumspection. The general rule in this way of angling is to fish with a line about half the length of your rod; but if there is wind stirring with as much as it will carry out; but you need hardly ever fish with more than the first length, as *dibbling* must be performed as near as possible to the bank that you stand on; therefore a long rod and a short line is the best, which you will command with ease, and be able to shelter yourself from the sight of the fish, behind *bushes*, *stumps* of *trees*, &c. The line you *dib* with should be very strong; for when you have struck a good fish, you'll have a hard bout with him before you kill him, for want of a greater length of line: therefore whenever I *dib* I always use a ringed rod, with a winch for my line fixed on it, (which is the same I use in *artificial fly angling*) by which means I can always keep my line to any length, without the trouble of changing it; and when I have hooked a good fish, can always immediately give him as much scope as I think necessary, and kill him with great ease and certainty; this method I would by all means advise

vise the angler to use, who will be thoroughly convinced of its utility at the first trial he makes. When you see a fish near you, guide your fly over him immediately, and he's your own, if the fly you use is strong on the water. When you dib for *chub*, *roach*, and *dace*, move your fly very slow when you see them make at it, or let the stream carry it down towards them; if it be in a still, deep, shady hole, draw the fly sideways by them and they will always eagerly pursue it. The roach takes flies the best a little under water. The best for the angler's use in this method of angling are, as follow :

*Oak-fly, Ash-fly, or Woodcock-fly,*

Found on the body of an oak, or ash, with his head downwards in general, and near the bottom of the tree; it is a brownish fly, and is taken from the beginning of May till the end of August.

*Stone-fly,*

Found under hollow stones, at the side of rivers, is of a brown colour, with yellow streaks on the back and belly, has large wings, and is in season from April to July.

*Green-drake,*

Found among stones by river sides, has a yellow body ribbed with green, is long and slender, with wings like a butter-fly, his tail turns on his back, and is eagerly taken from May, to Midsummer : put the point of the hook into the thickest part of his body, under one of his wings, run it directly through, and out on the other side, then take another, and put him on in the same manner, but with his head the contrary way; they will live so near a quarter of an hour.

*Haw-*

*Hawthorn-fly,*

Found on every hawthorn bush when the leaves come forth.

*Great-Moth,*

Found when there is a little breeze in summer evenings, in gardens; has a great head not unlike an owl, whitish wings, and yellowish body. The chub takes this exceedingly well.

*Black-Bee, or Humble-Bee,*

Found in clay walls, and is an excellent bait for the chub.

N. B. The Reader will find the peculiar method of dibbing for chub, under the description of that fish.

*Rules and Hints to be observed in Angling.*

1st. Every brother angler should be possessed with a great deal of patience, and resignation, and not be cast down with bad luck, or be elated with good; for the same success cannot always attend him.

2d. Never angle in glaring colours, for they are the easiest to be discerned by the fish, always turn out early in the morning, for that it is the best time of the day; keep your tackle always neat, and let your baits be in the highest perfection.

3d. When you angle shelter yourself as much as possible from the sight of the fish; for they are timorous, and easily frightened; and when you angle for trout, you never need make above one, or two trials for him in the



the same place, for he will in that time either take the bait or let it alone.

4th. When the nights prove dark, cloudy or windy, you will the next day have but little sport in respect to catching large fish, especially trouts; for in those nights they range about and devour small fish; but if the nights are bright, and the moon and stars are out, and the days following should be overcast, dark, and gloomy, you may depend on having good sport; for fish are then as timorous as in sun shiny days, and never stir from their holds: therefore having abstained from food all night, they are hungry and eager, and being encouraged by the darkness and gloominess of the day to range about; they then bite boldly and eagerly.

5th. If you wish to know what ground bait fish like best, the first you take, open his stomach, and there you will find what he fed on last and bait accordingly.

6th. If before you go out to angle, you should imagine by the looks of the weather, that it will prove showery, or thunder, always take three or four night lines out with you, and whilst you angle for other fish, lay them in according to your judgment; baited with well scoured lob worms, and you may depend on catching large eels, trout, &c.

7th. The best way to bait your hook, for this kind of fishing, or for *worm fishing* in general, either with *lob worms*, *brandlings*, &c. is thus: if you bait with one worm, put your hook into him somewhat above the middle, and out again a little below the middle; having so done, draw your worm above the arming of your hook; but note, you must enter the hook at the tail of the worm, and not at the head; then having drawn him above the arming of your hook, before

mentioned; put the point of your hook again into the very head of the worm, till it come near the place where the point of the hook first came out, and then draw back that part of the worm that was above the shank, or arming of the hook: if you fish with two worms, then put the second on before you turn back the hook into the head of the first worm.

8th. If when you are angling in any particular spot, and have had good sport, the fish should suddenly leave off biting, you may conclude that some of the fish of prey are come to the part you are fishing in; therefore put a *minnow* on your hook alive, sticking it through his upper lip, or back fin; let your tackle be strong in case the pike should be there; but for a certainty you may depend that either he or the perch will take it.

9th. When you have struck a good fish, keep your rod bent, which will prevent him from running to the end of the line, whereby he might break his hold.

10th. In ponds angle near the fords where cattle go to drink, and in rivers, angle for Breams, in the deepest and quietest parts; for eels, under trees hanging over banks; for chub, in deep shaded holes; for perch, in scowrs; for roach, in winter in the deeps, at all other times where you angle for perch; and for trouts in quick streams.

11th. It is good angling in whirlpools, under bridges, at the falls of mills, and in any place where the water is deep and clear, and not disturbed with wind, or weather; also at the opening of sluices, and mill-dams, and if you go with the course of the water, you will hardly miss catching fish, that swim up the stream to seek what food the water brings down with it.

12th.

12th. When you fish for roach, dace, &c. in a stream, cast your ground bait above your hook; and always remember to plumb your ground.

13th. Never trust to the strength of your rod, or line, when you have hooked a good fish; but always use your landing net.

14th. Your rod must neither be kept too dry, or too moist; for the one will make it brittle, the other rotten, and in sultry weather, always wet the joints of your rod which will make them adhere; and if by being wet they should stick so, that you cannot easily get them asunder, never use force, for then you will strain your rod, but turn the ferrel of the joint that is fast, a few times over the flame of a candle and it will separate.

15th. The best times for angling are from April to October, and the best time of the day from three till nine in the morning, and three in the evening till sunset. The south wind is the best to angle in; the next best point to that is the west, the cooler these blow in the hottest months is the best time to fish.

16th. Never angle in an easterly wind, for your labor will be in vain, but you may if the wind blows from any other point, provided not too sharply. Fish will never bite before a shower of rain, this hint may save you many a wet skin.

17th. In the morning if there happens to be an hoar frost, either in the spring or advancing of the season, fish will not bite that day, except in the evening: and after they have spawned, very ill till with grass and weeds, they have scoured themselves, and by that means recovered their appetite.

18th, The best time for the trout to be taken, and other fish with the ground line, is, morning and evening, in clear weather and water, but if the day proves cloudy, or the water muddy, you may angle all day long.

19th, The angler may depend on catching store of fish, in a dark, close, gloomy, or lowering day, if the wind be southerly, and when

“ The stealing show’r is scarce to patter heard

“ By such as wander thro’ the forest walks,

“ Beneath th’ umbrageous multitude of leaves.”

Having given the reader every necessary instruction, in regard to the *breeding* and *feeding* of fish; with the best advice concerning his *rods*, *lines*, *floats*, *hooks*, *baits*, &c. and a set of very choice rules, hints, and cautions; I shall now tell him the best methods of taking the fish in general angled for in *England*.



## C H A P. V.

*A description of the fish generally angled for in England, with the proper times and seasons to fish for them; their peculiar haunts, spawning time, and most killing baits, &c.*

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**T**HE *Salmon*, according to the opinion of some, breeds in the sea; but that of others seems better warranted, that he breeds in the clear sandy parts of rivers, not far from the mouths thereof. They commonly spawn in *October*, and the young become *samlets* the following year, and in a few months a large salmon. The *milter* and *spawner* having performed their office, betake themselves to the sea, and we are told that when they have been obstructed in their passage, they have grown so impatient, that clapping their tail to their mouths, with a sudden spring, they have leaped clear over wears, and other obstacles which stood in their way, and some by leaping short have by that means been taken. If they happen to meet with such impediments that they cannot get to sea, they become sick, lean, and pine away and die in two years: but if they spawn in the mean time, from thence proceeds a small salmon, called a *Skegger*, which never grows large. The female salmon is distinguished from the male because its nose is longer and more hooked, its scales not so bright, and  
body

body speckled over with dark brown spots : its belly flatter, and its flesh not so red ; more dry, and less delicious to the taste. He bites best about three in the afternoon, in *May, June, July, and August*, if the water be clear, and a little breeze of wind stirring : especially if the wind and stream are contrary. You must fish for him like a trout, with a worm, fly, or minnow ; the *lob-worm* is an excellent bait for him, well scoured in moss, which makes it tough, clear and lively. When you have struck him, he will plunge and bounce in the water very much ; therefore it is necessary to have a strong rod, ringed the same as a *trowling rod*, and a winch, with a strong line on it forty yards long, with which length, and proper playing him, you may kill the largest sized one. He has not a constant residence like a trout, but removes often, and you should always angle for him as near the spring head as possible, in the deepest and broadest parts of the river, *near the ground*. Put two large *lob-worms* on at a time, and fish without a float, that is, with a running line. Let one yard next to your hook be *gimp*, and your hook a proper sized *salmon hook*.

*N. B.* When I come to treat of *fly-fishing*, the proper flies for the salmon, &c. will be clearly expressed.

### *The Trout.*

*The Trout* is a delicious fresh water fish, speckled with red and yellow ; coming in and going out of season with the buck, and spawning in the cold months of *October and November*, whereas all other fish spawn in the hot summer months. There are several species of this fish, all valued very much : but the best are the red and yellow ; and of these the female distinguished by a less head and deeper body, is preferred ;

ferred ; by the largeness of their backs you may know when they are in season, which may serve as a rule for all other fish. All winter long they are sick, lean, and unwholesome, and frequently lousy. As the spring advances, deserting the still deep waters, they repair to the gravelly ground, against which they continue to rub, till they have got rid of their lice, which are a kind of worm, with large heads : from that time they delight to be in sharp streams, and such as are very swift ; where they lie in wait for minnows, May flies, &c. The latter part of May they are in the highest perfection. He is usually caught with a worm, minnow or fly, either natural, or artificial ; the different baits for him are the *earth-worm*, *dung-worm*, and the *maggot*, or *gentle*, but the best are the *lob-worm* and *brandling*. His *haunts* are, in *purling brooks*, running very swiftly over chalk stones, gravel, &c. he is oftener taken in the side of the stream, than in it, though the large ones are often caught in the deepest part of it. He delights to shelter himself behind large stones, or small banks, that hang over the river, and which the stream runs against and creates a foam ; also in the eddies between two streams ; his hold is usually under the roots of trees, and in hollow banks in the deepest parts of rivers. When you angle for him at the ground, let the link of your line, next the hook, be the best *silk worm gut* you can provide ; and have a nice elastic rod which will enable you to strike true, and to feel him when he bites. Angle for him with a running line, and begin at the upper part of the stream, carrying your line with an upright hand, and feeling your lead run on the ground about ten inches from the hook, leading your line according to the swiftness of the stream ; as before directed in page 8. If you bait either with one, or two worms, follow the manner of baiting with them, which I have laid down in the rules, and you will run on the ground with-



without being entangled. The *minnow* is the most excellent of all baits for the trout; when you fish with one, chuse the whitest, and middle sized ones, these being the best, and you must place him on your hook in such a manner; that being drawn against the stream he may turn round. The best way of baiting with the minnow is thus: put your hook in at his mouth, and out at his gill, drawing it through about three inches; then put the hook again into his mouth, and let the point and beard come out at his tail; then tie the hook and his tail about with a fine white thread, and let the body of the minnow be almost strait on the hook; then try if it turns well which it cannot do too fast. Angle with the point of your rod down the stream, drawing the minnow up the stream by little and little, near the top of the water. When the trout sees the bait he will come most fiercely at it, but be careful not to snatch it away, which at first you may be apt to do; and never strike till he has turned with the bait.

*N. B.* In this way of angling, a ringed rod is to be always used, with a winch for your line, which should have two or three swivels on it; by which means the minnow will spin the better.

*The Gragling, Grayling, or Umber.*

This fish has three different names given it, according to the different parts of England where it is found; he is by no means a general fish, and what anglers seldom meet with, except in the rivers *Dove* and *Trent*, and some other small streams. The haunts of the grayling are nearly the same of the trout; and in fishing for either of them, you may catch both. They spawn the beginning of *April*, when they lie mostly in sharp streams; in December he is in his prime, at which time his gills and head are blackish, and his belly dark grey, studded with black spots.



He bites very freely, but is often lost when struck, his mouth being very tender. Angle for him about mid-water, he being much more apt to rise then descend; and when you angle for him alone, and not for the trout also, use a quill float, with the bait about six or seven inches from the ground. He takes *brandlings*, *gilt-tails*, *meadow worms*, *gentles*, &c. but the most excellent bait for him in March or April is the *tag-tail*.

*The Carp.*

The *carp* is allowed to be the *queen* of fresh water fish (as the salmon is the *king*;) and lives the longest of any other fish (except the eel) out of its element. They breed several times in one year; but their first spawning time is in *May*: Mr. Ray assures us that in Holland they have a speedy way of fattening them, by hanging them up in a net in a cellar, and feeding them with bread and milk. Patience is highly necessary for every one to be endowed with, who angles for carp, on account of their sagacity and cunning; their *haunts* are in the deepest parts of ponds and rivers, and in the latter where the stream runs slow. When the weather in April, May, June, July and August is hot and fine, you cannot be too early, or late at the sport. He seldom refuses the *red-worm* in April, the *caddis* in May, or the *grasshopper* in June, July, and August. You must angle for him with a strong rod and line, a quill float, and strong *gut* at bottom; the *hook* in the medium of size; being a *leather mouthed* fish he seldom breaks his hold, if your tackle is strong, and you play him properly. But whenever you intend to fish for him particularly, and in good earnest, over night lay in a ground bait of garbage; as chickens guts, blood mixed with cow-dung, or any coarse paste: also ale grains and blood incorporated with clay, and at the same time that you throw any of these ground baits in, plumb the ground to two depths,

depths, (for it is best to angle for carp with two rods,) one about mid-water, the other four or five inches from the ground. The next morning lay your lines in very cautiously and success will attend you. *Gentles* are very good baits for the carp, also a paste made of *honey* and *bread*, and one made with bread and water alone, tinged with red lead.

*N. B.* But nothing in my opinion beats a *green pea*, having killed more with that than any other bait.

*The Bream.*

The time of the *bream's* spawning is in *June*; his chief residence is in ponds; he is a bony fish, and very slow of growth. From *Saint James's tide* to *Bartholomew tide* is the best time to angle for him, and the best time of the day in that season is, from sun rise, to eight o'clock, in a gentle stream, the water being rather thick, and curled with a good breeze. He delights in the deepest and widest parts of the water, and if the bottom is clear and sandy it is the better. His baits are *gentles*, *red-worms*, *gilt-tails*, and *grasshoppers*: when he takes your bait he makes for the opposite shore, therefore give him play, for though he is a strong made fish, he will not struggle much, but in two or three times fall on one side, and you may land him very easily. Angle for him with a strong line, with *gut* at bottom, the hook No. 4, and throw in the place you intend to angle for him, a ground bait made of malt-grains, bran, blood and clay, the night before; and you may fish with two, or, three lines, plumbed to different depths, and follow the method which is laid down for the carp.

*The Pike.*

The *Pike* is a very long lived fish, according to Lord Bacon and *Gesner*; who say he out lives all others.

He

He is called the *tyrant of the waters*, and will almost seize upon any thing, nay unaturally devour his own kind. He spawns in *February* or *March*; the best pike are those that are found in rivers, those in ponds are not near so good: the larger he is the coarser the food, and so *vice versa*. He feeds on small fish, and frogs, and on a weed called pickerel, from which some assert he derives his being; he is a solitary, melancholy and bold fish, always being by himself, and never swimming in shoals, or in company with other fish. There are two ways of angling for the pike, by the *ledger bait* and the *walking bait*. First, The *ledger bait* is that fixed in one certain place, and which the angler may leave, and angle for other fish; of this kind the best is some living bait, as a dace, gudgeon, roach, or live frog. To apply it, if a fish, stick the hook through his upper lip, or back fin, then fastening it to a strong line, ten or twelve yards long; tie the other end to some stake in the ground, or stump of a tree, near the pikes haunt; letting the line pass over the fork of a stick, placed for the purpose, and suspending the hook, by a yard of the line in the water; but so, as when the pike bites, the fork may give way, and let him have line enough to go to his hold, and pouch the bait. If you bait with a frog, put the arming wire in at his mouth, and out of his gill; then tie the frog's leg above the upper joint, to the armed wire. Secondly, The *walking bait* is that which the fisher attends to himself, and is called trowling; from the *French* of *troller* to move, or walk about. Before I proceed any farther in this mode of angling for the pike, I shall give the angler a description of the kind of rod, line, and hooks, necessary to be used. Your rod must be a strong one, and ringed for the line to pass through, and about three yards and a half long; your line about thirty yards long, wound upon a winch, to be placed on the butt end of your rod, and with which, you may al-

ways



ways keep your line to any length ; and at the end of your line next the hook, let there be a swivel. The hooks that are most general, are the two following ones ; they are formed and baited in this manner. The first is no more than two single hooks (though you may buy them made of one piece of wire) tied back to back, with a strong piece of gimp between the shanks ; in whipping the gimp and hooks together, make a small loop, and take into it two links of chain, about an eighth of an inch diameter ; and in the lower link (by means of a staple of wire) fasten by the greater end a bit of lead of a conical figure, and angular at the point. The second hook, may be either single, or double, with a long shank, and leaded two inches up the wire, with a piece of lead about a quarter of an inch square at the greater or lower end ; fix to the shank an armed wire about four inches long, and at the top of the wire, about half a yard of gimp, with a loop at the top of that : to bait this hook, you must have a brass needle about seven inches long ; put the loop of the gimp, on the eye, or small curve of the needle ; then thrust it into the mouth of the fish, and bring it out at his tail, drawing the gimp and wire along with it, till the lead is fixed in the belly of the bait fish, and the hook, or hooks, are come to his mouth, then turn the points of the hooks towards his eyes, if a double hook, but if a single one, directly in a line with his belly, and tie his tail to the arming wire very neatly with white thread ; I always, whether the hook be double or single, put a small piece of a worm on the point, or points of it, which prevents it pricking the pike when he takes it ; for if it does he will instantly leave it. To bait the former, put the lead into the mouth of the bait fish, and sew it up, the fish will live some time ; and though the weight of the lead will keep his head downwards, he will swim with nearly the same ease as if at liberty. Either of the former hooks  
being



being baited and fastened to the swivel, cast it into the water, and keep it in constant motion; sometimes letting it sink, and at others raising it gradually, chiefly throwing it into the parts of the pond, meer, or river, where his haunts are most usual: as near banks, under stumps of trees, by the side of bull-rushes, water-docks, weeds, or bushes, but in any of these places you need never make above a trial or two for him, for if he is there he will instantly seize the bait. When he has taken it give him line, and let him run to his hold and pouch it; allow him in general five minutes law, then strike him, and divert yourself with him as you please. But, if after he has run off with the bait to his hold, and rests there but about a minute, and then runs quickly off with it again, do not strike him until he has rested a second time; and not then, until the five minutes are expired, unless he runs off again before they are; which if he does, draw a tight line and strike him immediately; if he resists very much give him line enough, which will soon exhaust his strength; and when you pull him towards you do not do it violently; for if you do he will launch and plunge in such a manner, that though he may not be able to break your tackle, yet he will tear away his hold; nay, even his entrails if he is hooked there; but if you feel him come easily towards you, wind up your line, until you see him; then if he struggles again very much, give him line again; and so proceed till you have killed him; by following which method you will soon accomplish. The pike bites best from the middle of summer to the end of autumn about three in the afternoon, in clear water, ruffled with a gentle gale; but in winter all day long; and in the spring he bites early in the morning, and late in the evening. The best baits for him are small *roaches*, *dace*, *bleak*, &c. if the day be dark and cloudy; but a *gudgeon* is the best, if the water is clear, and the day bright and fine. Your  
live

live baits should be kept in a tin kettle, with holes made in the lid, that you may change your water often, which will keep them alive a long while; your dead ones in a tin box made for that purpose, with bran, which dries up the moisture that hangs about them, and contributes to preserve them longer. Angling for the pike at the *snap* is to let him run a little, and then to strike him, the contrary way from whence he runs, with two strong jerks; in this method you must use a double spring hook, which is to be had at any of the shops, and your tackle must be very strong. The *snap* is best used in March, when they are spawning; at which time they are sick, and lose their stomach; and though they will then take your bait, but immediately throw it out of their mouths; therefore striking them when they first take the bait is the only way to be even with them; which is called *angling at snap*. The way to bait the *snap hook* is thus: make a hole with a sharp pen-knife in the side of the bait-fish; then put the gimp that is fastened to your hook into it, and draw it out at the mouth, till the spring hook comes to the place where the incision was made; which when it is, put it into the belly of the fish, then have a piece of lead, about the size of a horse-bean, though of an oval form, with a hole thro' it from end to end, large enough for the gimp to go through; draw it down to the fish's mouth, then put it in it, and sew it up. Or, you may make an incision in the skin only, and draw the gimp out at the bone behind the gills, then enter it again under the gills, and bring it out at the mouth; which I think is the best method, because the hook has only the skin to hinder its fixing in the pike; whereas in the first method it must pierce through the flesh and skin before it can touch him; and if it is not very large, may hook him so slightly as to spoil all your sport. There is also a method to take pikes with, called *fluxing*. Take thirty or forty bladders, blow them up,

up, and tie them close and strong; and at the mouth of each, tie a line longer or shorter, according to the depth of the water; let the line, or lines hang always about mid-water; at the end of the lines, let hooks be armed, and baiting them either naturally or artificially, put them into the water, with the advantage of the wind, just as to make them move gently across the pond: the pike having taken the bait, will bounce about with the bladder, to the infinite diversion of all the spectators; when he is almost spent take him up. If the water is broad a boat is necessary.

I shall now communicate to the reader, a method which I have taken more pikes and Jacks with, than any other way. The hook which you must use, is to be like the first hook that I have mentioned, with this exception only, that the lead of a conical figure must be taken away; then before you fix the swivel on the bottom of the line, put on a cork-float that will swim a gudgeon, then put on your swivel, and fix your hook and gimp to it: put a swan shot on your gimp, to make your float cock a little, and of such a weight, that when the hook is baited with the gudgeon it may do so properly. Your gudgeons must be kept alive in a tin kettle: take one, and stick the hook either through his upper lip, or back fin, and throw him into the likely haunts beforementioned, swimming at mid-water. When the pike takes it, let him run a little, as at the *snap*, and then strike him. In this method of pike fishing, you may take three kinds of fish, viz. pikes, perch and chubs. It is so murdering a way that the generous angler should never use it, except he wants a few fish to present his friends with.

*Rules to be observed in trowling. September and October are the best months for trowling, because the weeds*



weeds are then rotten, and the fish are fat with the summer's feed. March is the best for the *snab*, because, as I have said before, they then spawn, and are sick, and therefore never bite freely.

A large bait intices the pike to take it the most, but a small one takes him with greater certainty.

Always both at *trowl* and *snab*, cut away one of the fins, close at the gills of the bait fish, and another at the vent on the contrary side; which makes it play better.

Let no weeds hang on your bait, for if they do, the pike will not touch it; and always throw it into the water gently; for if you throw it in *harumscarum* it intimidates him.

Be careful how you take a pike out of the water, for his bite is venomous; therefore if you have not a landing net, put you finger and thumb into his eyes, and take him out that way.

Both at *trowl* and *snab* always have one, or more fwivels on the line, which will prevent its kenking, and make it play better in the water.

### The Pearch.

The *pearch* is bow backed like a hog, and armed with stiff gristles, and his sides with dry thick scales. He is a very bold biter, which appears by his daring to venture upon one of his own kind, with more courage than even the ravenous Luce. He seldom grows above two feet long, spawns once a year, either in February, or March, and bites best in the latter part of the spring. His *haunts* are chiefly in the streams

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not



not very deep, under hollow banks, a gravelly bottom, and at the turning of an eddy. If the weather is cool and cloudy, and the water a little ruffled, he will bite all day long, especially from eight till ten, in the morning, and from three till six in the evening. His baits are *minnows*, little *frogs*, or *brandlings*, if well scoured; when he bites give him time enough, and you can hardly give him too much; for as he is not a leather-mouthed fish, without you do, he will often break his hold. Angle for him, if you bait with a brandling, with an indifferent strong line, and gut at bottom, your hook No. 4, 5, or 6, and at about five or six inches from the ground. But if you rove for him, with a *minnow* or *frog* (which is a very pleasant way) then your line should be strong, and the hook armed with gimp, and the bait swimming at mid-water, suspended by a cork float. I for my own part always use my trowl, that in case a pike should take it, I may be prepared for him. Keep your *minnows* in a tin kettle, and when you bait with one, stick the hook through his upper lip, or back fin. If you use the *frog*, stick it through the skin of his hind leg. These directions being carefully attended to, I dare insure the angler success.

### *The Tench.*

The *tench* the fish's physician (so called because his slime is said to be very healing to wounded fish, and what is more strange, the voracious pike is so sensible of his sovereign virtue, that he will not hurt a tench, although he will seize on any other fish of his own size that comes in his way; and when he, or any other fish are sick, they find relief by rubbing themselves against his body) is a delicious fresh water fish; he has small scales, yet very large and smooth fins, a red circle about the eyes, and a little barb hanging at each corner of his mouth. His *haunts* are chiefly in ponds

ponds amongst weeds ; he thrives very ill in clear waters, and covets to feed in foul ones ; yet his flesh is nourishing and pleasant. They spawn the beginning of *July* : the proper time to angle for them is early and late, in the months of May, June, the latter end of July, and in August. You must use a strong line with *gut* at bottom. The hook No. 2, or 3, and a quill float ; the depth about two feet. He bites best at *red-worms*, if you dip them first in tar, at all sorts of pastes made up with strong scented oils, and at one made with the inside of a roll, and honey. Also at *cad-worms*, *lob-worms*, *flag-worms*, *gentles*, *marsh-worms*, and soft boiled bread grain.

*The Flounder.*

The *flounder* may be fished for all day, either in swift streams, or in the still deep ; but best in the stream, in the months of April, May, June, and July. Your line must be a single haired one, with a small float, and the hook No. 6, or 7. Let your bait touch the ground, which may be any sort of small *worms*, *wasps*, or *gentles*. He being a fish but seldom taken with the rod and line, to enlarge on the subject would be totally unnecessary.

*The Chub.*

The *chub* is a fish, by no means in very much esteem, his flesh being very coarse, and full of small bones ; yet he affords good sport to the angler, especially to a *Tyro* in that art. They spawn about the beginning of *April* ; and their *haunts* are chiefly in large rivers, having clayey or sandy bottoms, in holes shaded with trees ; where many of them in general keep together. He bites best from sun-rising till eight, and from three till sun-set. In March and April you must angle for the chub with *worms*, in June, and

D. 2

July

July, with *flies*, *snails*, and cherries; but in August and September, use a paste made of *Parmesan*, or *Holland cheese*, pounded in a mortar with a little butter, and a small quantity of saffron put to it to make it of a yellow colour. In the winter when the chub is in his prime, a paste made of *Cheshire cheese* and *turpentine*, is very good; but no bait more killing for him, than the *pith* of an ox's or cow's back bone; you must take the tough outward skin off very carefully, but take particular care that you do not bruise the inward skin; also the brains of the above animals are excellent for him. Let your line be very strong, with a quill float on it, strong *gut* at bottom, the hook No. 3, or 4, the depth in hot weather—mid-water, in coldish near the bottom, and in quite cold weather on the ground. The most pleasant way of taking him is by dibbing; which is thus performed: in a hot summer's day, go to any hole that you know they haunt, and you will find perhaps thirty or forty of them basking themselves like partridges on the surface of the water: then take your rod, which must be very strong and long; your line the same, but about a yard in length; and bait the hook with a *grasshopper*: you must shelter yourself behind some bush, or stump of a tree, so as not to be seen; for the chub is very timorous, and the least shadow will make him sink to the bottom; though he will soon rise again. Having therefore fixed your eye upon the largest and best; drop your bait with great caution before him, and he will instantly take it, and be held fast; for he is a leather-mouthed fish, and seldom breaks hold, if played properly. There is a very peculiar way of dibbing for them in some counties, which I shall describe for the reader's information. Where the still deep holes lie almost near the middle of the river, or cut, so distant from the shore, that they cannot be taken with a rod and line; two persons go one on one side the river, and one on the other,



other, having a long line in their hands, which should if all unravelled reach twice across the river; but as they begin with it at first, only from one person to the other. In the centre of the line, is another suspended from it about a yard long, baited with a cock-shaver, or grasshopper: thus prepared they drop it as in the former instance, before any chub they like; which when they have hooked, the person who has the length of line in reserve, unravells it, and then the other draws the fish over to him, and baits the hook a fresh, after which he gives a signal, and the other winds up the line again, till it arrives, at its proper length; with this simple method many pounds weight are taken in an hour.

N. B. In dibbing where you cannot get a *grasshopper* any *fly*, *beetle* or *moth*, will equally answer the purpose.

*The Barbel.*

The *Barbel* is so called, on account of the barb, or beard, that is under his nose, or chops, is a leather-mouthed fish; and though he seldom breaks his hold when hooked; yet if he proves a large one, he often breaks both rod and line. The male is esteemed much better than the female, but neither of them are very extraordinary. They swim in great shoals, and are at the worst in *April*, at which time they spawn, but soon come into season again; the places they chiefly resort, are such as are weedy, gravelly rising grounds, in which this fish is said to dig, and rout his nose like a swine. In the summer he frequents the strongest and swiftest currents of water; as under deep bridges, wears, &c. and is apt to settle himself amongst the piles, hollow places, and in moss and weeds. In the autumn he retires into the deeps, where he remains all the winter and beginning of the



spring. The best baits for him are *Salmon-spawn*, *lob-worms*, *gentles*, bits of *cheese*, wrapt up in a wet linen rag to make it tough, or steeped in honey for twenty-four hours, and *greaves* : observe that the sweeter and cleaner your baits are kept, the more eager he will take them. You cannot bait the ground for him too much, when you angle for him, with any kind of garbage ; as *lob-worms* cut in pieces, *malt* and *grains* incorporated with *blood* and *clay*, &c. The earlier and later you fish for him in the month of June, July, and August the better. Your rod and line, must be very strong ; the former ringed, and the latter must have gimp at the bottom ; a running plummet must be placed on your line, which is a bullet with a hole through it : place a large shot a foot above the hook, to prevent the bullet falling on it. The worm will of course be at the bottom, for no float is to be used, and when the barbel takes the bait, the bullet will lie on the ground and not choak him. By the bending of your rod you will know when he bites, and also with your hand will feel him give a strong snatch, then strike him, and he will be your own if you play him well ; but if you do not manage him with dexterity, he will break your tackle. You must have on your rod a winch and a line on it about thirty yards long.

*N. B.* Their spawn acts as a violent cathartic and emetic.

### *The Eel.*

Authors of natural history in regard to the eel have advanced very various conjectures ; and in some measure have contradicted each other, entirely on this head ; namely : Whether they are produced by generation, or corruption as worms are ; or by certain glutinous drops of dew, which falling in May, and June,

June, on the banks of some ponds, or rivers, are by the heat of the sun turned into eels. Abr. Mylius, in a treatise of the *origin of animals* describes a method of producing them by art. He says, that if you cut up two turfs covered with May-dew, and lay one on the other, the grassy side inwards, and thus expose them to the heat of the sun, in a few of hours there will spring from them an infinite quantity of eels. Eels are distinguished into four kinds, viz. the *silver eel*; a greenish *eel*, called a *grey*; a blackish *eel*, with a broad, flat head, and lastly an *eel* with reddish fins. The eel's *haunts* are chiefly amongst weeds, under roots and stumps of trees, holes, and clefts in the earth, both in the banks and at bottom, and in the plain mud; where they lie with only their heads out watching for prey: also about flood gates, wears, bridges, and old mills, and in the still waters that are foul and muddy; but the smallest eels are to be met with in all sorts of rivers, and soils. They conceal themselves in the winter, for six months in the mud, and they seldom rove about in the summer in the day time, but all night long; at which time, you may take a great number of them, by laying in night lines, fastened here, and there to banks, stumps of trees, &c. of a proper length for the depth of the water, leaded so as to lie on the ground; and a proper eel hook whipped on each, baited with the following baits, which he delights in, viz *garden-worms*, or *lobs*, *minnows*, *hen's-guts*, *fish garbage*, *loaches*, small *gudgeons*, or *millers thumbs*, also small *roaches*, the hook being laid in their mouths. There are two ways to take them in the day time called *snigglings* and *bobbing*. *Snigglings* is thus performed: take a strong line and bait your hook with a large *lob-worm*, and go to such places above mentioned where eels hide themselves in the day time; put the bait gently into the hole, by the help of a cleft stick, and if the eel is there he will certainly bite; let him tire himself by  
tug-

tugging, before you offer to pull him out, or else you will break your line. The other method is called *bobbing*. In order to perform this you must scour some large *lobs*, and with a needle run a twisted silk thro' them from end to end, as many of them as will lightly wrap a dozen times round your hand; make them into links, and fasten them to strong pack-thread, or whip-cord, two yards long, then make a knot in the line about six or eight inches from the worms; afterwards put three quarters of a pound of lead, made in a pyramidal form on the cord; the lead must be made hollow three parts of the way up it, and then a hole must be bored through it, big enough to put the cord through, and let the lead slide down to the knot. Then fix all to a manageable poll, and use it in muddy water. When the fish tug, let them have time to fasten, then draw them gently up, and hoist them quick to shore. A boat called a *punt* is very useful in this kind of fishing. Some use an *eel spear* to catch eels with, which is an instrument with three, or four forks, or jagged teeth, which they strike at random into the mud.

#### *The Roach.*

The *roach* is as foolish, as the carp is crafty, he is by no means a delicate fish; the river ones, are much better than those bred in ponds. They spawn in *May*, and will bite all day long, if the weather is not in either of the extremes, on the top of the water. Their *haunts* are chiefly in sandy, or gravelly deep waters; delighting to be in the shade. In April their baits are *cads*, and *worms*. In summer white *snails*, or *flies*. In autumn a paste made of fine white bread, moulded in your hands with water, and a little cotton added to it, to keep it from washing off the hook, which should be No. 9. In winter *gentles* are the best bait for him; you should fish with a line made

made of single hairs, a quill float, and the lead about a foot from the hook ; and when you angle for roach, always cast in a ground bait, made of bran, clay and bread incorporated together ; and when you angle with tender baits, always strike at the least nibble that is apparent. *Sprouted malt*, the young brood of *wasps*, *bees* dipt in *blood*, and the dried *blood* of *sheep*, are nostrums in this kind of angling.

*The Dace, or Dare.*

This fish, and the roach, are much of the same kind, therefore the directions given for one, will serve for the other. They spawn about the middle of March, and will take any fly ; especially the *stone cadew* fly, *May fly*, the latter end of April, and most part of May ; and the *ant fly* in June, July, and August. When you angle for the dace with the *ant fly*, under water, let it be about two hand's breadth from the ground. They never refuse a fly in a warm day, on the top of the water. The best bait for them in the winter is, the *earth bob*, it is the spawn of the beetle, and is to be found by following the plough in sandyish grounds ; put them into a vessel with some of the earth from whence they are taken, and use them all the winter as an excellent bait, as I have before mentioned in the description of baits. As for your line, &c. the directions given for the roach, will serve in all respects for the dace or dare.

*The Gudgeon.*

The *Gudgeon* is a fish, that affords the young angler, an amazing deal of diversion ; being one that bites very free, and when struck is never lost ; because he is a *leather-mouthed* fish. They spawn three, or four times in the summer, and their feeding is like the *Barbel's*, in the streams, and on gravel ; slighting all



all manner of flies. Their baits are chiefly, *wasps*, *gentles*, and *cads*, but the small *red-worm* is best. When you angle for them, be provided with a *gudgeon-rake*, with which rake the ground every ten minutes; which gathers them together. A single haired line is best with a quill, or cork float according to the rapidity of the stream; your hook No. 7, or 8, and your bait on the ground. You may angle for him, with a running line, by hand, without a float.

*The Pope, or Ruff.*

This fish with a double name, is small, and rarely grows bigger than a gudgeon; in shape very like the perch, but is better food, being in the taste as pleasant as any fish whatever. His *haunts* are in deepest running parts of a gravelly river, the exact bottom whereof, having found by plumbing, bait your hooks with small *red-worms*, or *brandlings*; for you may angle with two, or three, and have excellent sport. He bites very greedily, and as they swim in shoals you may catch twenty, or thirty, at one standing, in a coal gloomy day. Always bait the ground with earth, and use the same tackle as for the gudgeon.

*The Bleak, or Bley.*

The *bleak* on account of its eagerness to catch flies, is called by some, the *river swallow*, and by others the *fresh water sprat*, because of it's resemblance to the *sea sprat*. He bites very eagerly at all sorts of *worms*, *flies*, *pastes*, and *sheep's blood*. You may fish for him with six or seven small hooks at a time. He is an excellent fish, to initiate a young angler in *fly-fishing*; by his whipping for them in a hot summer's evening, with a small artificial black gnat. Your  
tackle

tackle must be fine, and neatly formed. He is a capital bait for the pike.

*The Minnow, or Pink.*

The *minnow*, though one of the smallest fishes, is as excellent a one to eat as any of the most famed. They are generally found in March and April, and remain till the cold weather compels them to retire to their winter quarters. He is of a greenish, or wavy sky colour; his belly very white; his back blackish; and is a most excellent bait, for any of the fish of prey: namely, the pike, trout, perch, &c. His baits are small *red-worms*, *wasps*, *cads*, &c. If you can catch enough of them they make an excellent tansy, their heads and tails being cut off; and fried in eggs, with a sauce made of butter, sugar, and verjuice.

*The Loach, or Loche.*

This fish is very small, but eats very well; and is nourishing food for sick persons. He is found in clear swift brooks, and rivulets, and his food is gravel. He is bearded like the barbel, and freckled with black and white spots. You may take him with a small *red-worm* at ground; he delights to be near the gravel, therefore is hardly ever seen on the top of the water.

*The Bull-head, or Millers-thumb.*

This fish on account of its ugliness, is in some places called the *fresh water devil*; he has a broad head, and a large mouth, no teeth, but his lips are like a file, with which he nibbles at the bait. They spawn in *April*, and are full of spawn most of the summer. Their *haunts* in summer, are chiefly in holes, or amongst

mongst stones in clear water ; but in winter, they lie in the mud like the eel. The worst of anglers may take this fish ; for if you look about the water in a hot day, you may see him sunning himself on a flat stone ; put your hook upon it, baited with a small *red-worm* and he will take it directly. The taste of this fish is very good.

*The Stickleback, Sharpling, or Banstickle.*

This fish with three names, as he is called by in different counties, is a small prickly fish, and not worth the angler's notice, in regard to himself, but that he is an excellent bait for the trout, who will take it sooner than the minnow. His pricks must be broke off, and baited according to the directions given for baiting the minnow, under the description of the trout.

*N. B.* The tackle, baits, &c. for this fish, and the three foregoing ones, must be the same, and very fine.

C H A P. VI,

*The most scientific Method of making Fish-ponds, Stews,  
&c. To which is added several Arcana in the Art of  
Angling.*

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IT is agreed that those grounds are best, which are full of springs, and apt to be moorish: the one breeds them well, and the other preserves them from being stolen.

The situation of the pond is also to be considered, and the nature of the currents that fall into it; likewise that it be refreshed with a little brook, or with rain water that falls from the adjacent hilly ground. Add, that those ponds which receive the stale and dung of horses, breed the largest and fattest fish.

In making the pond, observe that the head be at the lowest part of the ground; and that the trench of the flood gate, or sluice, have a good swift fall, that it may not be long in emptying.

• If the pond carry six foot of water, it is enough; but it must be eight foot deep, to receive the freshes and rains, that should fall into it.



It would be also advantageous to have shoals on the sides, for the fish to sun themselves in, and lay their spawn on; besides in other places, certain holes, hollow banks, shelves, roots of trees, islands, &c. to serve as their retiring places. Consider further, whether your pond be a breeder; if so, never expect any large *carps* from thence; the greatness of the number of *spawn* overstocking the pond.

For large *carps* a store-pond is ever accounted the best; and to make a breeding-pond become a store-pond, see what quantity of *carps* it will contain: then put in all *milters*, or all *spawners*; whereby in a little time you may have *carps* that are both large, and exceedingly fat. Thus by putting in one sex, there is an impossibility of the increase of them; yet the *roach*, notwithstanding this precaution, will multiply. Reserve some great waters for the head quarters of the fish, whence you may take, or wherein you may put any quantity whereof. And be sure to have stews, and other auxiliary waters, so as you may convey any part of the stock, from one to the other; so, to lose no time in the growth of the fish, but employ your water, as you do your land, to the best advantage. View the grounds, and find out some fall between the hills, as near a flat as may be, so as to leave a proper current for the water. If there be any difficulty of judging of such, take an opportunity, after some sudden rain, or breaking up of a great snow in winter, you will plainly see which way the ground casts; for the water will take the true fall, and run accordingly.

The condition of the place must determine the quantity of the ground to be covered with water. For example, I may propose in all fifteen acres, in three ponds, or eight acres in two, and not less; and these ponds should be placed one above another, so as the

the point of the lower, may almost reach the head or bank of the upper, which contrivance is no less beautiful than advantageous.

The head, or bank, which by stopping the current, is to raise the water; and so make a pond; must be built with the clay and earth, taken out of the pan, or hollow, dug in the lowest ground above the bank: the shape of the pan to be an half oval, whereof the flat to come to the bank, and the longer diameter to run square from it.

For two large ponds of three or four acres a piece, it is adviseable to have four stews, each two rods wide, and three long. The stews are usually in gardens, or near the house, to be more handy and better looked to. The method of making them, is to carry the bottom in a continual decline from one end, with a mouth to favour the drawing with a net.

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# A R C A N A

I N T H E

A R T O F A N G L I N G.

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## To catch Fish.

**T**AKE *nettles* and *cinque-foil*, chop them small ; then mix some juice of *house-leek* with them; rub your hands therewith, then throw it into the water, and keep your hands in it ; the fish will come to them. Or take *heart-wort*, and *lime*, mingle them together, and throw them into a standing water, and it will fox them ; when you may easily take them. But the best method is to take *coccus indicus* which is a poisonous narcotic ; called also *bacca piscatoriae*, fisher's berries, and pound them in a mortar, then make balls of the paste which will be produced, about the size of a pea, and throw them into the standing water ; the fish that taste of it, will be very soon intoxicated, and will rise, and lie on the surface of the water ;

put

put your landing net under them directly and take them out ; for they will soon recover. It is but necessary to know these secrets ; but I am sure no true lover of angling will ever make use of them, only by being acquainted with them it will enable him to detect poachers ; and I hope when he meets with any that he will put in full force the laws against them, so judiciously appropriated, to clear the country of such a set of rascals.

*To take Pike as he lies basking in March or August.*

Take a long pole, or rod that is light and strait, and on the small end fasten a running loop of twisted horsehair and silk, of a large compass ; which, gently draw five or six inches over the gills ; and then hoist him to shore as quick as possible. If it is a small one draw it not on so far, and keep very silent, you may also take him with an hand net, by putting it under him very gently, and then taking him up as quick as you can.

*Ointments to allure Fish to bite.*

As the ointments to allure fish are almost innumerable, I shall only communicate to the reader a few of the best, and most approved ; and if he wishes to see them at large, I refer him to a book intituled, *The Secrets of Angling*, by J. D.

Take gum ivy and put a good deal of it into a box made of oak, and chafe and rub the inside of it with this gum. When you angle put three or four worms into it, but they must not remain their long ; for if they do it will kill them ; then take them out, and fish with them, putting more in their places as you want them out of your worm bag. Gum ivy is a tear which drops from the body of large ivy trees,



being wounded, and is of a yellowish red colour, of a strong scent, and sharp taste; that which is sold in the shops is counterfeit, and good for nothing. Therefore to get gum ivy, about Michaelmas, or in the spring, drive several great nails into large ivy stalks, wriggle the same till they become very loose, and let them remain, and the gum will issue thereout.

Also slit several great ivy stalks, at the times above-mentioned, and visit them once a month and gather the gum which flows from the wounded part. This will very much improve the angler's success. *Probatum est.*

Take assa-fœtida three drams, camphor one ditto, Venice turpentine one ditto, pound all together in a mortar, with some drops of the chemical oil of lavender, or spike. When you angle anoint eight inches of your line with it, next your hook, and it is excellent for a trout in muddy water, and for gudgeons in clear. *Probatum est.*

Mr. Walton in his compleat Angler says, that if you dissolve gum-ivy in oil of spike, and anoint your bait for a pike with it, that he will take it the sooner.

I shall now give the Reader the *ne plus ultra* of all these kinds of ointments; which he cannot set too high a value on. Take cat's fat, heron's fat, and the best assa-fœtida, of each two drams. Mummy finely powdered ditto, cummin seed finely powdered two scruples, and camphor, galbanum and Venice turpentine of each one dram, and civet two grains. Make them *secundum artem* into a thinnish ointment, with the chemical oils of lavender, annise, and cammomile, and keep it in a narrow mouthed and well glazed gallipot, close covered with a bladder and leather, and

and it will keep two years. When you want to use it, put some of it into a small taper pewter box, and anoint your line with it, about eight or nine inches, from the hook, and when it is washed off repeat the unction. *Probatum est.*

*A Glue for Angling Rods.*

Pour some water on some quick lime, until the ebullition ceases, then pour the water from it, and boil your glue very gently with this water, and it will make a very good glue.

*A Receipt that renders Leather more capable to keep out wet.*

As dry feet are very necessary to health, I have copied an excellent receipt out for angler's use, that will prevent his boots or shoes letting in water. Take a pint of linseed oil, with half a pound of mutton suet, six or eight ounces of bees wax, and half a penny worth of rosin; boil all these in a pipkin together, and then let it cool till it be luke-warm; take a little hair brush and lay it on your boots; but it is much better to be laid on the leather, before the boots are made, and brushed with it once over when they are, as for your old boots, or shoes, you must brush them with it, when they are dry. As I am now acting the part of physician, let me advise you whenever you are out in the heat of summer a fishing, and are thirsty never to drink water; as the consequences arising from such an indiscretion, may prove fatal; but either take a little brandy, or ruin, out with you in a wicker bottle, or wait till you come to some house where you can have a little; the effects it has of quenching the thirst, and cooling the body are instantaneous.

The Angler being now furnished with every requisite for the art of ground angling; his strictly adhering

ing to the theory laid down, in his practice, is the only thing he has to do ; and he may depend on his endeavours being crowned with success. The second part of this little essay will treat of *artificial fly fishing*, under every head that can prove of utility to the angler ; which certainly bears the belle in that delightful recreation ; which adds strength and vigour to the body, keeps the mind in a perfect state of serenity and tranquility, and alleviates the cares and troubles, attendant on mortality.

PART

Part the Second.

T H E

Compleat Fly - Fisher,

O R,

EVERY MAN HIS OWN FLY-MAKER,

I N W H I C H

The best METHODS, RULES, and HINTS,

Are carefully laid down and properly digested,

For the Angler's Pleasure and Recreation.

With pliant rod athwart the pebbled brook,  
Let me, with judgment, cast the feather'd hook,  
Silent along the mazy margin stray,  
And with the fur-wrought fly delude the prey.  
To frame the little animal, provide  
All the gay hues that wait on female pride,  
Let nature guide thee ; sometimes golden wire  
The shining bellies of the fly require ;  
The peacock's plumes thy tackle must not fail,  
Nor the dear purchase of the fable's tail.  
Each gaudy bird some slender tribute brings,  
And lends the growing insect proper wings :  
Silks of all colours must their aid impart,  
And every fur promote the fisher's art.

GAY.

By THOMAS BEST, GENT.

Late of his Majesty's Drawing Room in the TOWER.



Part the Second.

T H E

Complete Fly - Fishing.

BY MR. W. L. GOSWOLD.

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BY THOMAS BEST, GENT.

Of the Society of Dilettanti in the Tower.

## T H E

## Complete FLY-FISHER, &amp;c.

## C H A P. I.

*Observations concerning Artificial Fly-Angling, with  
proper Directions for the Angler's Rods, Lines, &c.*

---

THE art of *artificial fly-fishing*, certainly has the preheminance over the other various methods that are used to take fish in the art of angling. It requires a great deal of ingenuity and attention, and the variety which attends it, makes it at once both pleasant and agreeable. The angler is not confined to any particular part of the water in fly-fishing, but roves from one place to another, trying his fortune by throwing his flies into different eddies, and the most likely places he meets with, to make a captive of the speckled trout; enjoying at the same time the harmonious warblings of the numerous songsters of the groves; beholding the diversity of the prospects spread around him; and gaining that health and serenity of mind, not to be purchased by all the riches in the universe. The imitations of nature in regard to the flies necessary for his use; suiting the different

rent colours so exactly as to resemble the natural fly ; and observing the greatest nicety in regard to its symmetry ; contribute to make it still more delightful. Whenever he makes a fly, let him have the natural one always before him, which will enable him to be a competent judge, of the materials most necessary to dub it with ; a list of which and of the best way to make the *Palmer* and *May-fly*, (that are the ground of artificial fly angling) I shall give him by and by ; for if he is not able to make his own flies, he never will be a good fly-fisher, nor experience that pleasure, which he will receive by taking fish, with one of his own making. He must never think a fly ill made, because it will not kill fish as well in any other river, as that he particularly angles in ; because the same flies differ very much both in colour and size in different counties : therefore I would advise him to pursue a plan, that he will find very agreeable and pleasant, and very much increase his pastime ; which is to make a selection of the natural flies he means to imitate, for artificial fly fishing, in the different counties he angles in, and put them into a glass case for preservation ; by which means, he will always be able to suit the fly for the water he fishes in : and likewise let him take the exact time, that each fly kills best in, as the same will be taken much sooner, or later, on one river, than another ; nay, even the fly which was taken on its peculiar water one year in *April*, will perhaps not be on the next, till the middle of *May* : according to the backwardness, or forwardness of the season. If he should follow this method, he needs not be at the expence of a glass case, but provide some chip boxes, about eight inches square with tops to them, and at the bottom of each place a piece of cork half an inch thick, then when he has taken a fly, let him heat a pin in the flame of a candle, put it through the fly near its head, and then stick it on the cork ; allowing room  
enough

enough for each fly : for if he does not, some parts of them will snap off. If he draws very well, he may also take the exact size, colour, and shape of the fly on paper, which will add more to his amusement : or, let him directly he has taken a proper fly, make one in imitation of it, then try it, and if it kills fish, coil it up neatly, and keep it in a box as a sample, upon the lid of which, let there be written the name of the river, and the time it is generally taken. I shall now proceed to give the angler a description of the rods, and lines, best calculated for *artificial fly-fishing*, but before I do shall make this one observation : that theory without practice, can never make a man a proficient ; and that if he wishes to arrive to any degree of excellence in this, or any other art.

+++++\*+++++

*Multa tulit fecitque.*

*Rods and Lines proper for Artificial Fly-fishing, &c.*

As for your *artificial fly-rod* the directions given in the first part of this treatise are sufficient, only be careful that the materials which it is composed of are well seasoned, and free from knots, and that the whole is exactly perfect in regard to symmetry.

The length of the fly-rod is generally from about fourteen to seventeen feet long ; which is long enough for any one who understands fly fishing to throw twelve yards of line with one hand, and seventeen with both.

To make a fly rod that will be exceedingly neat and  
F pleasant



pleasant in hand, you must observe the following method.

Procure a nice breadth of ash plank free from knots, perfectly sound, and about 7 feet long; let it be turned in the lath so as to run taper, from the butt end, which should be so thick and no more than you can with ease grasp in your hand, then have it ferreled, or bind it to a piece of hazel seven feet long, and in exact taper proportion to the ash. As you may not be able to get a piece of hazel so long, that will run perfectly taper it may consist of two, or three pieces; then add to the hazel a nice piece of yew (in the same proportion to the hazel as that is to the ash) two feet long, made round, taper and smooth, and to that, piece a bit of small, round, and taper whale-bone six inches long; then the rod will be compleated, and if just symmetry is observed through the whole, it will be a most excellent one, and of a proper length, viz.

	-	-	Ft.	In.
Ash	-	-	7	0
Hazel	-	-	7	0
Yew	-	-	2	0
Whale bone	-	0	6	
<hr/>				
The length	-		16	6
<hr/>				

Some use deal for making the bottom of the rod, because they say it is more light; but I in answer to that averr, that it is not half so strong and lasting, and that the ash, on account of its strength, may be turned in the lath, or planed down, to be every jot as light as the deal, and that the angler, when he has hooked a good fish, needs never fear its snapping short, as deal will, because it is the nature of the wood to bend almost double, and will always, if well seasoned,

seasoned, return to its former straitness. Let your rod thus made, be ringed for the line to pass through, with small brass rings, about a foot distant from each other, and at the butt end let there be a spike made to screw in, which you will find very convenient ; and you may if you like to alter the colour of your joint, (though it does not signify so much in ash, as in deal, whose whiteness might scare the fish) first warm it before the fire and then dip a feather in *aqua fortis*, put it on the ash, and then chafe it into it with your hand and it will make it a cinnamon, or rather a *puce*, or flea colour.

Your fly line should be about thirty yards long, and wound on a small brass multiplying winch which is to be placed on the butt of your rod ; then you must run the line through the rings before mentioned, and you may always command any length without the trouble of changing the line, and shorten it when you come to places encumbered with wood. The general length that you should have off your reel must be about four yards longer than your rod, nay sometimes the line must be twice the length of the rod ; for to *fish fine* and *far off* is the standing rule for trout fishing. But it will be a long time before you are able to throw a dib line with nicety at the general length, yet as you can always lengthen or shorten it by means of the winch, you may if you are expert, and are a true lover of angling, after some trials accomplish it. Never incumber yourself with too much line at first, but increase the length of it as you find you make improvement ; and as it is ten to one, that you lose a fly every time you cast your line, until you are arrived at some degree of perfection in doing it, it will not be amiss to practice some time without one. But let me return to the subject : your line should run taper from the top of the rod down to the fly, that is if the first link is composed of thirty five hairs, the next must be of thirty four ; so leaving out one hair in

each link till the whole is compleated ; then comes the silk worm gut, on which you should whip all your hooks.

But the best lines for artificial fly angling are those that are wove, and are all one piece, and are to be bought at any of the shops in London where fishing tackle is sold, and run taper like the lash of a coach whip, and may be had at any length ; as from thirty to forty yards, &c.

These are the only lines that can be used on a winch ; because they have no knots to prevent their running glibly through the rings of the rod.

By the line being made taper, you will be able to throw it into any place you like with a greater exactness, and it will fall much lighter on the water, which will very much increase your sport.

Likewise you will find a great advantage by observing, as I said in the making of your line, an ascending, or descending progression, which is, if you begin at the bottom of your line with three hairs for the first link, then the next to it must consist of four, so continuing, the increase of one in every link till it is of a proper length ; this is called an ascending series the same as, 1, 2, 3, 4, &c. in arithmetic : but if you begin to make your line from the top, and the first link is composed of thirty hairs, the next to that must consist of twenty nine, so continuing the decrease of one in every link till the whole is compleated ; this is called a descending series, the same as the figures 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, &c. Your lines being thus made, there will almost be a continual regular decline from the butt of the rod, down to the very flie, which will be very much in your favor, in respect to casting it with  
nicety,

nicety, and when you have fastened your hook, to a bough of a tree, a bush, so that you cannot disengage it without breaking your line, you will not lose above one, or two links of it at most, on account of the line being stronger the nearer it is to the top of the rod.

The reader now being informed of the rod, and lines best calculated for artificial fly fishing, I shall in the next chapter give him a list of the materials he must be in possession of before he attempts to make a fly, and afterwards give him the best instructions for making them.



## CHAP. II.

*A List of the Materials necessary for an Angler to have, and the best Method to make the Palmer and May-fly.*

---

**B**EFORE I proceed to give the angler a list of the articles which he is to provide, let me advise him to have a small cabinet made to keep them in, with sixteen drawers in it, and a few pigeon holes, and on each drawer, let there be a written label intimating the contents of it, which he will find to be much better than putting them indiscriminately into a dubbing bag; because when he wants to use them he can go to each separate article without any trouble. The sixteen drawers are to hold the following materials.

## No. 1. Hog's Down,

Combed from the roots of the bristles, of *black, red, whitish* and *sandy* coloured hogs; the white down you may have dyed to any colour you like. It is excellent dubbing because it will stand the water and shines well. To be a competent judge of the real colour of any dubbing, you must hold it between  
the

the sun and your eyes. This is a standing rule when you imitate a fly.

No. 2. Camel's Hair,

Of a *dark* and *light* colour, and one in the medium of both.

No. 3. Badger's Hair,

The *brown* soft fur which is on the skin, and the *blackish*.

No. 4. Bear's Hair,

*Grey, dun, light, and dark* coloured, *bright, brown, and shining brown*.

No. 5. Spaniel's Hair,

From the different parts of a spaniel, especially from behind the ear, *brown, dark brown, light brown and black*.

No. 6. Sheep's Wool,

Of all colours both natural and artificial, you may have it dyed to any colour.

No. 7. Seal's Fur,

To be had at the trunk-maker's, get it dyed from the lightest to the darkest *brown*, and you will find it much better dubbing than cow, or calve's hair.

No.

## No. 8. Mohairs,

Of all colours, *black, blue, purple, white, violet; yellow and tawney, philomot from feuille morte, a dead leaf; and Isabella, which is a whitish yellow, or soiled buff-colour.* I cannot pass by this article without giving the reason why this last colour was so called.

The arch-duke *Albertus*, who had married the *Infanta Isabella*, daughter of *Philip* the second, king of Spain, with whom he had the *Low Countries* in dowry, in the year 1602, having determined to lay siege to *Ostend*, then in the possession of the Heretics; his pious princess, who attended him in the expedition, made a vow, that till it was taken she would never change her cloaths. Contrary to expectation, as the story goes, it was three years before the place was reduced, in which time her Highness's linen had acquired the above-mentioned hue.

## No. 9. Cow's Hair,

The softest you can get from a *black, brended, and red cow*; and of these colours, have *brown, dark brown, light brown and black.*

## No. 10. Colt's, or Calve's Hair.

These afford very good dubbing and a variety, especially those hides that have been tewed, or dressed in a Skinner's lime pit; but as I said before, seal's fur dyed is much better than either cow's, or either of the hairs of these two; because it is not so harsh, and does not require so much trouble to work it on the hook; and observe further that this fur is for small flies, and *hog's down* for large ones.

No.'

No. 11. Camlets,

Both hair and worsted of all colours, *blue, yellow, dun, brown, dark brown, light brown, red violet, purple, black, horse-flesh, pink and orange.*

No. 12. Furs,

Off the *squirrel*, especially his tail ; a *hare* the part off the neck, which is a withered fern colour ; *fox-cub*, from the tail where it is downy and of an ash colour ; an old *fox*, and old *otter*, *otter-cub*, *fulmart*, or *filmert* ; a *mole*, a black *cat's* tail ; a *house mouse*, and *water rat* ; a *martern* particularly, from off the gills, or spots under the jaws, which is of a fine *yellow*. These are all to be had at the furriers.

No. 13. Hackles.

These are the feathers that hang from the head of a *cock* down his neck and likewise near his tail, they are particularly used in making the *palmer-fly* ; get the following colours of them, viz. *red, dun, yellowish, white, orange, and black* ; let not the fibres of them be above half an inch long. Whenever you meet with a *cock* whose hackle is of a strong *brown red* buy him, and make the most of the hackles. Note, the feathers of a *bantam*, or *cock-chick* are good for nothing.

No. 14. Feathers.

To make the wings of artificial flies, &c. it is necessary to be provided with all kind of feathers ; procure therefore those from the back, and other parts of the wild *mallard*, or *drake* ; of a *partridge*, particularly the red ones in the tail ; those of a *cock-phea-*



*pheasants* breast and tail; also the wings of a *stare*, or *starling*, *jay*, *land-rail*, *black-bird*, *throistle*, *field-fare*, *water-coot*, and a *brown hen*; likewise the top, or cop, of a *pevit*, *plover*, or *lap-wing*, *peacock's* herl, green, copper-coloured and white; also black *ostrich's* herl, and feathers from the neck and wings of a *heron*. Observe that in many instances hereafter that you will meet with, where the mallard's feather is set down for the wings of an artificial fly, that the starling will be preferable, because it is of a finer grain, and will not imbibe the water so much.

#### No. 15. Carpets and Blankets.

There is very good dubbing to be got from *blankets*, also from an old *Turkey carpet*; untwist the yarn, and pick out the wool, then separate the colours, wrap them up in different papers, and lay them by.

#### No. 16. Silks, &c.

In this drawer, which is the last, keep small, though strong *silk* of all colours, wrapt on little reels; also *flaw silk*, gold and silver, *flatted wire*, or *twist*; *hooks* in small chip boxes, with the number of the size of each marked on the outside; *wax* of all colours, and *needles*; a *sharp pen-knife* and a small sharp pair of *scissars*, made quite angular with large bows for the fingers.

N. B. When you make the *palmer-fly* suit the colour of the silk to the hackle you dub with; a *dun hackle* requires *yellow silk*; a *black hackle*, *sky-blue silk*; a *brown*, or *red hackle*, *red silk*; when you make flies that are not *palmer's*, dub with silk that resembles the colour most predominant in the fly; and in making your flies remember to mix bear's hair, and  
hog's

hog's down with your other dubbing ; because they repel the water ; making your flies always in hot sun-shiny weather, for your waxed silk will then draw kindly ; and when you take the dubbing to imitate a fly always wet it, and then you will be perfect in your imitation ; for although the dubbing when dry may suit, yet when it is wet it may be quite another colour. Marten's fur is the best yellow you can use.

How to make the *Palmer* and *May Fly*.

There have been various disputes whether the *palmer's* should be made with wings, or not, all exceedingly idle and futile, therefore I will venture to say they should not, nor will I ever recant from what I averr, until some one can assure me for a truth, that they have seen a caterpillar, or worm with wings ; a species of which they certainly are. No one as yet has ever given an account how to make the *palmer-worms*, but it has been so erroneous, dark, and unintelligible that it would be impossible for a *tyro* in the *art* of *angling* to make either head or tail of it. Therefore I shall inform the reader how to perform it, in so plain and easy a manner, that if he has got a grain of mechanism in his composition, he will fully comprehend the method ; but if after all he should find himself at a loss, the only thing I can recommend him to do is to see some skilful hand make both the *palmer* and *May-fly*.

First lay all the materials by the side of you, viz. half a yard of fine round even *silk worm gut* ; half a yard of *red silk* well waxed with wax of the same colour ; a hook the size No. 6, a needle ; some strands of *Ostrich's* feather and a *fine red hackle* : then take the hook and hold it by the bent between the fore finger and thumb of your left hand, with the shank towards your right hand, and with the point and  
beard

beard of the hook not under your fingers, but nearly parallel with the tops of them: afterwards take the silk and hold it likewise about the middle of it, with your hook, one part laying along the inside of it to your left hand, the other to the right; then take that part of the silk which lies towards your right hand, between the fore finger and thumb of that hand, and holding that part towards your left tight along the inside of the hook, whip that to the right three or four times round the shank of the hook towards the right hand; after which take the *silk worm gut* and lay either of its ends along the inside of the shank of the hook, till it comes near the bent of it; then hold the *hook, silk* and *gut* tight between the forefinger and thumb of your left hand, and afterwards give that part of the *silk* to your right hand, three or four whips more over both *hook* and *gut* till it comes near the end of the shank, and make a loop and fasten it tight; then whip it neatly again over both silk, gut, and hook, till it comes near the bent of the hook, after which make another loop and fasten it again; then if the gut should reach further than the bent of the hook, cut it off, and your hook will be whipped on, and the parts of the silk hang from the bent of it.

Having proceeded so far, wax the longest end of the silk again, and take three or four strands of Ostrich's feather; and holding them and the hook as in the first position, the feathers to the left hand, and the roots of them in the bent of the hook, with the silk that you waxed last, whip them three or four times round; make a loop, and fasten them tight: then turning the strands to the right hand, and twisting them and the silk together, with your fore finger and thumb of your right hand; wind them round the shank of the hook till you come to the place where you first fastened, then make a loop and fasten them again;

again ; if the strands should not be long enough to wind as far as is necessary round the shank, when the silk gets bare you must twist others on it. Having performed this, take your scissars and cut the body of the palmer into an oval form, that is, small at the bent and the end of the shank, but full in the centre ; do not cut too much of the dubbing off. Now both the ends of the silk are separated, one at the bent, another at the end of the shank, wax them both again ; then take the hackle, hold the small end of it between the fore finger and thumb of your left hand, and stroak the fibres of it with those of your right the contrary way from which they are formed, hold your hook as in the first position, and place the point of the hackle in its bent, with that side which grows nearest the cock upwards ; and then whip it tight to the hook ; but in fastening it, tie as few fibres in as you can possibly avoid : the hackle being fast, take it by the great end, and keeping the side nearest the cock to the left hand, begin with your right hand to wind it up the shank upon the dubbing ; stopping every second turn, and holding what you have wound, tight with your left fingers, whilst with the needle you pick out the fibres you will unavoidably take in ; proceed in this manner till you come to the place where you first fastened, and where an end of the silk is ; then clip off those fibres of the hackle which you held between your finger and thumb, close to the stem ; and hold the stem close to the hook : afterwards take the silk in your right hand, and whip the stem very fast to the hook ; then make a loop and fasten it tight : take your pen-knife and if that part of the stem next the shank of the hook, is as long as the part of the hook which is bare, pare it fine ; wax your silk ; and bind it neatly on the remaining bare part of the hook ; then fasten the silk tight, and spread some shoe-maker's wax very lightly on your last binding ; after that clip off the ends of



the remaining silk both at the shank and bent of the hook, and all fibres that start or stand ill conditioned, and the whole is completed.

This is called the *palmer fly*, or *plain hackle*, and may instead of the Ostrich's feather above mentioned, be dubbed with black spaniel's fur; and is a very excellent killer. There are three more palmer's which are all to be made in the same manner as I have laid down, only with different articles, which are as follow:

*Great Palmer, or Hackle.*

Dubbed the same as the *plain hackle* with the strands off an *Ostrich's* feather, or a black *spaniel's* fur, and wrapped with red peacock's hackle untrimmed, that is leaving the whole length of the hackle staring out (for sometimes the fibres of the hackle are to be shortened all over, sometimes barbed only a little, and sometimes close underneath) leaving the whole length of fibres on the top, or back of the fly which makes it swim better, and on a whirling round water, kills great fish. Your hook for this *palmer*, No. 5.

*Golden Palmer, or Hackle.*

The same dubbing, ribbed with gold *twist*, and a *red hackle* over all.

*Silver Hackle.*

Made with a black body also, silver *twist* over that and a *red hackle* over all.

The

The variation that is to be observed in making the *gold* and *silver palmer's* is this, that when you whip the end of the hackle to the bent of the hook, you must also do the same to the gold or silver *twist*, and first wind either of them on the dubbing, observing that they lie flat on it, and then fasten off; afterwards proceed with the hackle as directed: or you may wind the hackle on the dubbing first, and rib the body with either of the twists afterwards.

*Utrum horum mavis accipe.*

These are the standard hackles in *fly fishing*, and are taken any month in the year, from nine to eleven in the morning, and from one to three in the evening, and upon any water; though you must have different sizes of them, and dubbed with different colours that you may always be able to suit either a clear, or a dark water, or a bright, or cloudy atmosphere; observing that small light coloured flies are for clear waters and skies; and the larger for dark, and cloudy ones.

These *palmers* (as I said before) being taken every month in the year, when I come to treat of the flies proper for each month, I shall not take any notice again of the four which I have set down; for that would be totally unnecessary; but the others that deviate in their size and dubbing from the general rule, will be fully expressed.

The angler should always try the *Palmers* first, when he fishes in a river that he is unaccustomed to; even in that which he constantly uses, without he knows what fly is on the water and they should never be changed till he does; the only way to come to the true knowledge of which, he must observe an

old established rule laid down for that purpose ; and as it is poetically described by Mr. *Gay*, I shall give it him in that dress.

Mark well the various seasons of the year,  
 How the succeeding insect race appear ;  
 In this revolving moon one colour reigns,  
 Which in the next the fickle trout disdains.  
 Oft have I see an skilful angler try  
 The various colours of the treach'rous fly ;  
 When he with fruitless pain hath skim'd the brook,  
 And the coy fish rejects the skipping hook,  
 He shakes the boughs that on the margin grow,  
 Which o'er the stream a waving forest throw ;  
 When if an insect fall, (his certain guide)  
 He gently takes him from the whirling tide ;  
 Examines well his form with curious eyes,  
 His gaudy vest, his wings, his horns and size,  
 Then round his hook the chosen fur he winds,  
 And on the back a speckled feather binds,  
 So just the colors shine through ev'ry part,  
 That nature seems to live again in art.

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The best Method to make an *Artificial Fly* not a  
*Palmer*.

First hold your hook fast betwixt the fore-finger and thumb of your left hand, with the back of the shank upwards, and the point towards your right hand ; then take a strong small silk of the colour most predominant in the fly you intend to make, wax it well with wax of the same colour, and draw it between your finger and thumb, to the head of the shank, then whip it twice or thrice about the  
 bare

bare hook, which prevents it slipping, and the shank of the hook from cutting the gut : which being done, take your gut and draw it likewise between your finger and thumb, holding the hook so fast, as only to suffer it to pass by, till the end of the gut is near the middle of the shank of the hook, on the inside of it ; then whip the silk twice or thrice about both gut and hook, as hard as the strength of the silk will permit ; after that take the wings which before you began to make your fly, you had stripped off the stem for its wings, and proportional to it, and which lies with your other materials by you, (as they always should before you begin) and place that side downwards, which grew uppermost before, upon the back of the hook, leaving so much only, to serve for the length of the wings of the point of the plume, laying it reversed from the end of the shank upwards ; then whip your silk twice or thrice about the root-end of the feather, gut, and hook ; which being done, clip off the root-end of the feather close by the arming, and then whip the silk fast and firm about the hook and gut till you come to the bent of it, and then if the gut goes beyond the bent of the hook, cut it off and make all fast : take then the dubbing which is to make the body of your fly, as much as you think will do, and holding it lightly with your hook between the finger and thumb of your left hand, take the silk with the right, and twisting it between the finger of that hand, the dubbing will spin itself about the silk, which when it has done, whip it about the armed hook, till you come to the setting on of the wings : afterwards take the feather for the wings, divide it into two equal parts, and turn them back towards the bent of the hook, the one on the one side, the other on the other side of the shank, holding them fast in that posture between the fore-finger and thumb of your left hand ; which being done, wrap them so down as to stand, and slope



towards the bent of the hook; and having warped up to the end of the shank, hold the fly fast between the finger and thumb of your left hand, and then take the filk between those of your right, and where the warping ends, pinch or nip it with your thumb nail against your finger, and strip away the remaining of your dubbing from the filk, which wax again, and then with the filk which is newly waxed and bare, whip it once or twice about, make the wings stand properly, then fasten and cut it off: after which with the point of a needle raise up the dubbing gently from the warp, twich off the superfluous hairs of your dubbing, leave the wings of an equal length, (or your fly will never swim true) and the whole is compleated.

In this manner you are to make the *May-fly*, or *green drake* and all other flies that are not palmers; the materials to make the green drake are the following. Your hook must be No. 5. and you must have the white grey feather of a mallard, for the wings, dyed yellow, the dubbing camel's hair, bright bear's hair, yellow camlet, and the soft down that is combed from the bristles of a hog, well mixed together; the body must be long, and ribbed about with green filk, or rather yellow, waxed with green wax, and three long hairs for his tail, from those off a fable's

Or, the *May-fly* may be dubbed after this method. The body of seal's fur, or yellow mohair, a little fox-cub down, and hog's down, or light brown from a turkey carpet mixed together, warp with green and yellow, pale yellow or red cock's hackle under the wings, which are to be the same as in the other method of dubbing it.

As I shall not mention the *green drake* when I come

come to lay down the other flies taken in the month of May; I will here give you every particular concerning it. He comes on the water the twentieth of that month, and is taken all day long but best from two to four in the evening, and kills most fish from the end of May to the ninth of June.

How to dye the *Mallard's* feather yellow.

Take the root of a Barbary tree, and shave it, and put to it *woody vifs*, with as much alum as a walnut, and boil your feathers in it with rain water, and they will be of a fine yellow, or get a little *weld* and *rocou*, and boil your feathers with them, and it will answer the same purpose.

## C H A P. III.

*The Names, and the best Manner of dubbing the different Artificial Flies which are generally known, and will kill Fish on any Water, from the Month of March, to the End of September.*

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I SHALL begin fly fishing with the month of March, that being soon enough to throw a fly on the water, nay, in some years is too soon owing to the backwardness of the season. The inclemency of the weather before that time renders the attempt not only unpleasant, but fruitless to endeavour to take fish with the fly; and the risk a man runs of impairing his health standing by the water side before the weather is mild and temperate forms an objection more strongly against it. Let an angler be ever so fond of fly fishing he will certainly have enough, perhaps a satiety, between the months of March and September; besides the mind of man is fond of variety, and there are amusements of the field very pleasant and conducive to health; for I myself am entirely of *Terence's* opinion, that

*Ad primè in vita esse utile, ut nequid nimis.*

MARCH

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M A R C H.

THE PALMERS.

1. *The Dark Brown.*
  2. *The Great Whirling Dun.*
  3. *The Early Bright Brown.*
  4. *The Thorn, or Hawthorn Tree Fly.*
  5. *The Blue Dun.*
  6. *The Little Black Gnat.*
  7. *The late Bright Brown.*
- 

1. Dubbed with the brown hair off the flank of a brended cow, and the grey feather of a drake for wings.

2. Dubbed with the fur from the bottom of a squirrel's tail, and the wings off the grey feather of a drake. Or, dubbed with squirrel's fur, mixed with about a sixth part of fine hog's down, the wing's of a pale orange colour, taken from the quill-feather off a ruddy hen, the head to be fastened with ash coloured silk, and a red unbarbed cock's hackle, may be wrapped



wrapped under the wings, and a turn or two lower towards his tail. *This is a very killing fly, and is taken best late in the evening of a blustering warm day.*

3. Dubbed with the brown hair off a spaniel taken from behind the ear, or with that off a red cow's flank, the wings the grey feather of a wild drake.

4. Dubbed with seal's fur dyed a perfect black, mixed with a little *Isabella* coloured mohair, the body made small, and the wings off a bright mallard's feather. *A killing fly.*

5. Dubbed with the down combed from the neck of a black grey-hound, or the roots of a fox-cub's tail, mixed with a little blue violet worsted upon a hook, the size No. 9. the wings off the pale part of a starling's feather. *This fly is a great killer, and is taken from eight to eleven and from one to three.*

6. Dubbed with black mohair upon a hook the size No. 9. and the wings the lightest part off a starling's feather.

7. Dubbed with the hair off a cow, or calve's hide, which has been drest in a skinner's lime-pit, if you hold it between your eyes and the sun, it will appear of a bright gold, or amber colour, the wings feather of a brown hen.

APRIL.

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A P R I L.

PALMERS.

1. *The Dark Brown.*
2. *The Violet Fly.*
3. *The Little Whirling Dun.*
4. *The Yellow Dun.*
5. *The Horse-flesh Fly.*
6. *The small Bright Brown.*

1. Dubbed on a small hook No. 8, or 9, with brown seal's fur, or with brown spaniel's fur, that looks ruddy, by being exposed to the weather, mixed with a little violet camlet, warp with yellow silk, and the wings off the grey feather of a mallard. *Kills best from eight to eleven.*

2. Dubbed with dark violet stuff, and a little dun bear's hair mixed with it; the wings, off the grey feather of a mallard. *Kills very well from the sixth to the tenth of this month.*

3. Dubbed with fox-cub down, ash-coloured at the roots, next the skin; ribbed about with yellow  
silk

filk, the wings off a pale grey feather of a mallard. Or, dubbed with the same down, and a little ruddy brown mixed, warped with grey, or ruddy filk, a red hackle under the wings, which must be made from the feather of a land-rail, or ruddy brown chicken, which is better. *This fly comes on the water the twelfth of this month, and is taken in the middle of the day all the month through, and in blustering weather to the end of June.*

4. Dubbed with Camel's hair, and martern's yellow fur mixed together, or with a small quantity of pale yellow crewel, mixed with fox-cub down from the tail, warped with yellow filk; and the wings off a pale starling's feather. *This fly is taken from eight to eleven, and from two to four.*

5. Dubbed with blue mohair, and with pink and red colour *tammy* mixed, a brown head, and light coloured wings. *This fly is taken all the month two hours before sun-set till twilight.*

6. Dubbed with spaniel's fur, the wings the lightest part off a stare's feather. *Taken very well in a bright day and clear water.*

MAY.

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M A Y.

PALMERS.

*The May-Fly.*

1. *The Dun Cut.*
2. *The Stone Fly.*
3. *The Black May-fly.*
4. *The Little Yellow May-fly.*
5. *The Grey Drake.*
6. *The Camlet-fly.*
7. *The Cow Dung-fly.*

1. Dubbed with bear's hair of a brownish colour, with a little blue and yellow mixed with it, the wings off a brown hen, and two horns at the head from the hairs off a squirrel's tail. Or, dubbed with bear's-cub fur, a little yellow and green cruel mixed with  
H it,



it, warped with yellow, or green ; wings off a land-quail. *A great killer in the evening of a showery day.*

2. Dubbed with dun bear's hair, mixed with a little brown and yellow camlet, so placed, that the fly may be more yellow on the belly, and towards the tail than any where else, place two, or three hairs off a black cat's beard on the top of the hook, in the arming it, in such a manner that they may be turned up when you warp on the dubbing and stand almost upright, and start one from the other, rib the body with yellow silk, and make the wings very large off the dark grey feathers of a mallard. The hook No.

3. *This is a very great killer and comes on the water about the middle of April, and continues till the end of June; it is generally used in the swift streams, but if there is a good wind stirring it will be taken in the deeps; it is taken but indifferently in the middle of the day, but excellently late and early.*

3. Dubbed with the strands off a black ostrich's feather, ribbed with silver twist, and a black cock's hackle over all. *A good killer, but not to be compared with the Green Drake, or Stone Fly.*

4. Dubbed with yellow camlet, or yellow marten's fur, the wings off a mallard's feather dyed yellow. This fly is to be made very small, but exactly in the shape of the green drake.

5. Dubbed with whitish hog's down, mixed with black spaniel's fur, ribbed with black silk; black cat's beard for the whisks of the tail, and the wings off the black grey feather of a mallard. Or, dubbed with white ostrich's feather; the end of the body towards the tail of peacock's herl, warping of ash colour, with silver twist, and black hackle, and the wings

wings of a dark grey feather of a mallard. *A very killing fly, especially towards an evening, when the fish are gluttoned with the green drake.*

6. Dubbed with dark brown shining camlet, ribbed over with very small green silk, and the wings off the double grey feather of a mallard. *It will kill small fish, and continues till the end of June.*

7. Dubbed with light brown and yellow mixed, or dirty lemon coloured mohair, with the same coloured hackle under the wings, which may be either made of the feather of a land-rail, or a dark grey feather of a mallard.

*The size of the hook No. 7. This fly is used in cold windy days.*

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## J U N E.

### The PALMERS.

1. The *Ant Fly*.
2. The *Purple Gold Palmer*.
3. The *Little Black Gnat*.
4. The *Brown Palmer*.
5. The *Greater Red Spinner*.
6. The *Lesser Red Spinner*.

1. Dubbed with brown and red camlet mixed ;  
the wings the pale part off a starling's feather.

2. Dubbed with purple mohair, ribbed with gold  
twist, and a red cock's hackle over all.

3. Dubbed

3. Dubbed with the black strands off an ostrich's feather, upon a hook the size No. 9. and the wings off the lightest part of a starling's feather. *A great killer after a shower of rain, especially in an evening.*

4. Dubbed with light brown seal's hair, warped with ash coloured silk, and a red hackle over all.

5. Dubbed with seal's fur dyed red, and brown bear's hair mixed together, but there must be bear's hair sufficient to make the body appear of a dullish red, ribbed with gold twist, the wings off a stare's feather; and a red cock's hackle over the dubbing.

The hook No. 7. *This fly kills very well till the latter end of August from six o'clock till twilight upon a dark coloured water.*

6. Dubbed with the yellow off a spaniel, taken from behind the ear, ribbed with gold twist, a red hackle over all, and the wings off a starling's feather. The hook No. 8, or 9. *This fly kills exactly at the same time the other spinner does, but when the water is very clear.*



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J U L Y.

## The PALMERS.

1. The *Badger Fly*.
2. The *Orange Fly*.
3. The *Wasp Fly*.
4. The *Black Palmer*.
5. The *Black Silver Palmer*.
6. The *July Dun*.

1. Dubbed with the soft brown fur off a badger's skin, warped with red silk, the wings off the dark grey feather of a mallard's feather ; the head must be red. *This fly is an excellent killer, and in some rivers is taken in March and April.*

2. Dub-

2. Dubbed with orange coloured wool ; the wings off the feather of a black bird's wing. Or, dubbed with raw orange silk warped with silk of the same colour, ribbed with gold twist, and a black, or red hackle over all. *This fly is taken in June when the May-fly is over, in hot gloomy weather, and till the end of this month.*

3. Dubbed with brown bear's hair, or the fur off a black cat's tail ; ribbed with yellow silk ; and the wings off the pale feather of a stare's wing.

4. Dubbed with the herl off a copper-coloured peacock's feather, with a black cock's hackle over it.

5. Dubbed the same as the *Black Palmer* ; ribbed with silver twist, and black hackle over all.

6. Dubbed with the down off a water mouse, mixed with bluish dyed seal's fur ; or, dubbed with the fur off a mole, mixed with a little Marten's fur ; warped with ash-coloured silk ; the wings off the feather of a blue pigeon's wing. *A good killer. The size of the hook No. 9.*

AUGUST.

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## A U G U S T.

### The PALMERS.

1. The *Late Ant Fly*.
2. The *Fern Fly*.
3. The *White Palmer*.
4. The *Hearth Fly*.
5. The *Pale Blue*.
6. The *Harry Long Legs*.

1. Dubbed with the hair off a cow that is of a blackish brown; warp some red in for the tag of his tail, the wings off the feather of a brown hen. *An excellent killer.*

2. Dubbed with the fur off a hare's neck of a fern colour; the wings off a darkish grey feather off a mallard's.

3. Dub-

3. Dubbed with the white herl off a Peacock's feather, and a white hackle over all.

4. Dubbed with the wool off an aged black ewe, mixed with some grey colt's hair; the wings off those of a starlings.

5. Dubbed with very light blue fur, mixed with a little yellow martern's fur, and a blue hackle over all; the wings off the feather of a blue pidgeon. *A very killing fly from ten in the morning, till three in the evening. The hook No. 3.*

6. Dubbed with darkish bear's hair, mixed with a little blue wool, and a brown hackle over all. Or dubbed with lightish bear's hair mixed with a few hairs of light blue mohair, and a little fox-cub-down warped with light grey or pale blue silk, and a dunish hackle over all; the head made large. *Taken chiefly in a cloudy windy day. The hook No. 5.*



## S E P T E M B E R.

## The PALMERS

1. *The Peacock Hackle.*
2. *The Camel Brown.*
3. *The Late Badger.*
4. *The September's Dun.*

1. Dubbed with peacock's ruddy herl; warped with green filk, and a red cock's hackle over all.

2. Dubbed with the hair pulled out of the lime of an old wall; warped with red filk, and the wings off the darkish grey feather of a mallard's.

3. Dubbed with the fur off a black badger's skin, mixed with the softest yellow down off a fanded hog,  
and

and the wings off the feather of a dark grey mallard's.

4. Dubbed with the down off a mouse; warp with sad ash-coloured silk, and the wings off the dark coloured feather of a stare's. *The hook No. 9.*

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I have given the reader Forty-seven of the best flies used in *fly-fishing*, and what are generally known; with the best methods of dubbing them; and which if he pays attention to, and makes his exceptions with judgment, he may in time become to be an excellent fly-fisher.

As it cannot be expected that a man ignorant of painting, can point out the beauties, or defects of a picture, neither can a *tyro* in fly-fishing be supposed to make a proper selection from a list of flies, of those that are the best calculated for that purpose; therefore upon that supposition, and that he may meet with no impediments, to obstruct his progress in the attaining that pleasing art, I will give him a selection of the best flies from those I have set down for his use, which if he dubs after the directions given, and makes proper deviations according to the water he fishes in, will undoubtedly kill fish in any part of *England*, or *Wales*, viz.

*A concise Treatise on*

4. The PALMERS.
5. *Great Dun.*
6. *Dark Brown.*
7. *Early Bright Brown.*
8. *Late ditto.*
9. *Black Gnat.*
10. *Yellow Dun.*
11. *Great Whirling Dun.*
12. *Little ditto.*
13. *Dun Cut.*
14. *May Fly.*
15. *Grey Drake.*
16. *Camlet Fly.*
17. *Cow Dung Fly.*
18. *Little Ant Fly.*
19. *Badger Fly.*
20. *Fern Fly.*
21. *Stone Fly.*

N. B. There are two *salmon flies*, which are the principal ones, called the *Dragon* and *kings-fisher*, about two inches long, which may be made according to fancy, but of the most gaudy feathers there are, especially the peacock's, for they will rise at any thing gaudy, and where they are plenty, at *Trout flies*.

There are likewise two *Moths* which I have omitted, great killers about twilight in a serene evening, and the *humble bee* a famous chub killer any time of the day. They are dubbed in the following manner: The *brown moth*; the wings off the feather of a brown owl; dubbed with light mohair, with a dark grizzle cock's hackle for the legs; and a red head. The *white moth*; dubbed with the white strands off an ostrich's feather; wings off the feather of a white pigeon's wing; a white hackle for the legs and a black head. *The hooks for both No. 2.*

The *humble bee*: dubbed with black spaniel's fur: a black cock's hackle over that; the tag of the tail to be of a deep orange colour, and the wings off the feather of a crow's wing. *The hook No. 2.*



## C H A P. IV.

The best rules for *artificial Fly fishing*.

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**I**T is the best fishing in a river somewhat disturbed with rain ; or in a cloudy day, when the waters are moved with a gentle breeze : the south and west winds are the best ; and if the wind blows high, yet not so, but that you may conveniently guide your tackle, the fish will rise in the still deeps ; but if there is little wind stirring, the best angling is in swift streams.

In casting your line do it always before you, and in such a manner that the fly may fall first on the water, and as little of your line with it as possible ; but if the wind is high, you will then be forced to drown a good part of it, that you may keep the fly on the water ; and endeavour as much as you can to have the wind at your back, and the sun in your face ; but the

the windings of the river will frequently render that impracticable.

When you throw your line, wave the rod in a small circumference round your head, and never make a return of it before it has had it's full scope; for if you do the fly will snap off.

Altho' when you angle the day is cloudy and windy, and the water thick, you must keep the fly in continual motion; otherwise the fish will discern the deceit.

- " Upon the curling surface let it glide,
- " With nat'ral motion from your hand supply'd,
- " Against the stream now gently let it play,
- " Now in the rapid eddy roll away.

Let the line be twice as long as the rod, unless the river is encumbered with wood; and always stand as far off the bank as the length of your line will permit, when you cast the fly to the contrary side; but if the wind blows so that you must throw your line on the same side you are on, stand on the very brink of the river, and cast your fly at the utmost length of the rod and line, up or down the stream as the wind serves.

You must have a quick sharp eye, and active hand, to strike directly a fish rises; or else finding the mistake he will spew out the hook.

Small light coloured *flies* are for clear waters, and clear atmospheres; large dark coloured *flies* when vice versa.

When after rain the water becomes brownish, an orange coloured *fly* is taken greedily.

When fish rise at the *fly* very often, and yet never take it, you may conclude that it is not what they like; therefore change it for one they do.

When you see a fish rise, throw your *fly* beyond him, and draw it gently over the place where he rose; and if it is a proper *fly* for the season, and you cast it with a nicety, the fish is your own.

When you angle in slow running rivers, or still places with an artificial *fly*, cast it across the water, and let it sink a little in the water, and then draw it gently over to you again, letting the current carry it slowly down; this is the best way for slow waters, but for quick ones, your *fly* must always swim on the top, under the continual inspection of your eyes, which ought for this kind of angling to be as sharp as the *basilisk's*.

I shall now conclude these rules by giving the reader a passage relating to *artificial fly fishing*, (with the alteration only of two or three monosyllables) from the *Spring* of that elegant and natural descriptive poet Mr. *Thomson*, which cannot fail of contributing as well to his amusement, as instruction.

Soon as the first foul torrent of brooks,  
Swell'd with the vernal rains, is ebb'd away,  
And, whit'ning, down their mossy-tinctur'd stream  
Descends the billowy foam, then is the time,  
While yet the dark-brown water aids the guile,  
To tempt the trout. The well-dissembled fly.

The

The rod fine tap'ring with elastic spring,  
Snatch'd from the hoary steed the floating line,  
And all thy slender wat'ry stores prepare;  
But let not on thy hook the tortur'd worm,  
Convulsive, twist in agonizing folds,  
Which, by rapacious hunger swallow'd deep,  
Gives, as you tear it from the bleeding breast  
Of the weak helpless uncomplaining wretch,  
Harsh pain and horror to the tender hand.  
When with his lively ray the potent sun  
Has pierc'd the streams, and rous'd the finny race,  
Then, issuing chearful, to thy sport repair;  
Chief should the western breezes curling play,  
And light o'er ether bear the shadowy clouds.  
High to their fount, this day, amid the hills  
And woodlands warbling round, trace up the brooks;  
The next pursue their rocky-channel'd maze  
Down to the river, in whose ample wave  
Their little naiads love to sport at large.  
Just in the dubious point where with the pool  
Is mix'd the trembling stream, or where it boils  
Around the stone, or from the hollow bank  
Reverted plays in undulating flow,  
There throw, nice judging, the delusive fly,  
And as you lead it round in artful curve,  
With eye attentive mark the springing game.  
Straight as above the surface of the flood  
They wanton rise, or urg'd by hunger leap,  
Then fix with gentle twitch the barb'd hook;



Some lightly tossing to the grassy bank,  
And to the shelving shore slow-dragging some,  
With various hand, proportion'd to their force.  
If yet too young, and easily deceiv'd,  
A worthless prey scarce bends your pliant rod,  
Him, piteous of his youth, and the short space  
He has enjoy'd the vital light of Heav'n,  
Soft disengage, and back into the stream  
The speckled captive throw : but should you lure  
From his dark haunt, beneath the tangled roots  
Of pendent trees, the monarch of the brook,  
Behoves you then to ply your finest art.  
Long time he, following cautious, scans the fly,  
And oft' attempts to seize it, but as oft'  
The dimpl'd water speaks his jealous fear :  
At last while haply o'er the shaded sun  
Passes a cloud, he desperate takes the death  
With fullen plunge : at once he darts along,  
Deep struck, and runs out all the lengthen'd line,  
Then seeks the farthest ooze, the shelt'ring weed,  
The cavern'd bank, his old secure abode,  
And flies aloft, and flounces round the pool,  
Indignant of the guile. With yielding hand  
That feels him still, yet to his furious course  
Gives way, you, now retiring, following now  
Across the stream, exhaust his idle rage,  
Till floating broad upon his breathless side,  
And to his fate abandon'd, to the shore  
You gaily drag your unresisting prize.

CHAP. V.

*Of the principal Rivers in England, and particularly  
of the Thames.*

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THE rivers in *England* are said, by *Dr. Heylin*, to be three hundred and twenty-five, though others increase their number to four hundred and fifty. It would be superfluous here to treat particularly of their diversities, their situations, their distance and remoteness from each other, their nearness or vicinity to the sea, the qualities of their water, and the various species of fish they contain. Those that have a more immediate intercourse with the sea, participate of its influences, and have the same vicissitudes, the same fluxes and refluxes, the same salt water, and the same sort of fish which frequent those seas where they dis-  
embogue

embogue themselves. The mouths of rivers are too deep to be fathomed by the cordage of a line ; but more inland, and farther distant from the common receptacle of waters, the rivers are most proper for the angler's diversion.

The principal rivers in *England* are the *Thames*, *Severn*, *Trent*, *Tine*, *Tweed*, *Medway*, *Tees*, *Dove*, *Isis*, *Tame*, *Willey*, *Avon*, *Lea*, *Trevel*, *Lon*, *Nen*, *Welland*, *Darwent*, *Calder*, *Wharf*, *Nid*, *Don*, *Swale*, *Hull*, *Ouse*, and *Aire*. The rivers in *Wales* are reckoned above two hundred, the principal of which are the *Dee*, *Wye*, *Conwy*, *Tivy*, *Chedlayday*, *Chud*, *Ufk*, *Tovy*, *Taff*, and *Dovy*.

As the maps will give a better prospect of these than any enumeration of them can do, let every angler have a large one of *England*, or at least of the particular county where he usually angles, and therein he may with delight observe the spring-head, site, distance, various passages, windings, turnings, and confluxes of each particular river, with what towns, castles, churches, gentlemens seats, and places of note are on or near the banks ; making as he angles remarks proper to the nature of each. The six principal rivers are as follow :

1. The *Thames*, compounded of two rivers, *Tame* and *Isis*. The *Tame* rises in *Bucks*, beyond *Tame* in *Oxfordshire*, and the latter in *Coltsfold-hills*, near *Cirencester* in *Gloucestershire*. They meet together about *Dorchester* in *Oxfordshire*, and thence run united betwixt that county and *Bucks*, and between *Buckinghamshire*, *Middlesex* and *Essex* on the one side, and *Surry* and *Kent* on the other, wedding itself to the *Kentish Medway* in the very jaws of the ocean. This river is said to feel the violence and benefit of the sea

sea more than any other river in *Europe*, ebbing and flowing twice a day, more than sixty miles. Sir *John Denham* has given so grand a description of the *Thames* in his *Cooper's Hill*, that I think the insertion of some part, cannot prove unacceptable to the Reader.

My eye descending from the hill, surveys  
Where *Thames* among the wanton vallies strays :  
*Thames* ! the most lov'd of all the ocean's sons  
By his old Sire, to his embraces runs,  
Hasting to pay his tribute to the sea,  
Like mortal life to meet eternity ;  
Tho' with those streams he no resemblance hold,  
Whose foam is amber, and their gravel gold :  
His genuine and less guilty wealth t'explore,  
Search not his bottom, but survey his shore ;  
O'er which he kindly spreads his spacious wing,  
And hatches plenty for th' ensuing spring ;  
Nor then destroys it with too fond a stay,  
Like mother's which their infants overlay ;  
Nor with a sudden and impetuous wave,  
Like profuse kings, resumes the wealth he gave.  
No unexpected inundations spoil  
The mowers hopes, nor mock the ploughman's  
toil ;  
But god-like his unwear'd bounty flows ;  
First loves to do, then loves the good he does.  
Nor are his blessings to his banks confin'd,  
But free and common as the sea or wind ;

When



When he, to boast or to disperse his stores,  
 Full of the tribute of his grateful stores,  
 Visits the world, and in his flying tow'rs  
 Brings home to us, and makes both Indies ours;  
 Finds wealth where 'tis, bestows it where it wants,  
 Cities in deserts, woods in cities, plants.  
 So that to us no thing, no place, is strange,  
 While his fair bosom is the world's exchange.

2. The second river of note is the *Severn*, which has its beginning in *Plinlimmon-Hill* in *Montgomeryshire*, and its end seven miles from *Bristol*; washing in that space the walls of *Shrewsbury*, *Worcester*, *Gloucester*, and divers other places and palaces of note. It receives greater rivers, and is farther navigable than the *Thames*, but does not equal it for the quantity and variety of fish.

3. The *Trent* (so called on account of the thirty different kinds of fish which are found in it, or because it receives thirty small rivers) has its fountain in *Staffordshire*, and gliding through the counties of *Nottingham*, *Lincoln*, *Leicester*, and *York*, augments the turbulent current of the *Humber*, the most violent stream of all the isle. The *Humber* is not a distinct river, because it has not a spring-head of its own, but is rather the mouth or *æstuarium* of divers rivers meeting together; among which, besides the *Trent*, are the *Darwent* and *Ouse*.

4. The *Medway*, a *Kentish* river, falling into the sea together with the *Thames*, and famous for harbouring the royal navy.

5. The

5. The *Tweed*, the north east boundary of *England*, on whose banks is seated the strong and almost impregnable town of *Berwick*.

6. The *Tine*, famous for *Newcastle* and its inexhaustible coal pits. These, and the rest of principal note, are thus described in one of Mr. *Drayton's* sonnets.

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I.

The flood's queen *Thames*, for ships and swans is  
crown'd,

And stately *Severn* for her shore is prais'd ;  
The crystal *Trent* for fords and fish renown'd,  
And *Avon's* fame to *Albion's* cliffs is rais'd :

II.

*Carlegion Chester* vaunts her holy *Dee* ;  
York many wonders of her *Ouse* can tell :  
The *Peak* her *Dove*, whose banks so fertile be,  
And *Kent* will say her *Medway* doth excel.

III.

## III.

Cotswold commands her Isis to the Tame ;  
Our northern borders boast of Tweed's fair flood ;  
Our western parts extol their Willy's fame,  
And the old Lea brags of the Danish blood.

But let me return to the *Thames*, of which, and the rivers that fall into it, I shall treat somewhat particularly, as they are more the feat for the diversion of angling than any others. The higher an angler goes up the *Thames*, if within about forty miles, the more sport, and the greater variety of fish he will meet with ; but as few *Londoners* go so far from home, I shall mention the best places for *Thames* angling from *London Bridge* to *Chelsea*.

But before I proceed any farther on this subject, it will be necessary to lay down some rules which the angler must attend to.

If the air is cold and raw, the wind high, the water rough, or if the weather is wet, it is totally useless to angle in the *Thames*.

But when the sky is serene, the air temperate, and the water smooth, success will attend you.

The

The proper hours for angling, are from the time that the tide is half ebb'd, to within two hours of high water, provided the land floods do not come down.

Always pitch your boat under the wind ; that is, if the wind be in the south, then keep on the *Surry* shore; if north, on the *London* side.

The best places for pitching a boat to angle in the *Thames*, are about one hundred and fifty yards from *York Stairs* ; the *Savoy*, *Somerset-House*, *Dorset Stairs*, *Black-Friars Stairs* ; the *Dung-Wharf* near *Water-Lane*, *Trig Stairs* and *Essex Stairs*. On *Surry* side, *Falcon Stairs* ; *Barge Houses* ; *Cuper's* vulgò *Cupid's Stairs* ; the *Windmill* and *Lambeth*.

When you go to angle at *Chelsea*, on a calm fair day, the wind being in a right corner, pitch your boat most opposite to the church, and angle in six, or seven feet water, where, as well as at *Battersea Bridge*, you will meet with plenty of *roach* and *dace*.

*Mortlake Deep*s is the next place where *roach* principally resort, when the weeds are rotten; and here are good *carp* very often taken.

From the sides of the *Ait's* opposite to *Brentford*, *Isleworth* and *Twickenham*, there is very good angling for *roach*, *dace*, *gudgeons* and *perch* ; very often you will meet with *trout* and *carp*.

*Teddington Banks* are remarkable for good *gudgeons*, *roach*, &c.

*Kingston-wick* and *Kingston*, are famous for *barbel*, *roach* and *dace*.



At *Hampton* and *Sunbury* there is good angling for *barbel*, *roach*, *dace*, *chub*, *gudgeons* and *skeggors*: and from the *Ait's*, for *trout* and large *perch*.

*Walton Deep*s and *Shepperton Pool* abound with large *barbel* and *dace*.

At and about *Windfor* is a vast variety of all sorts of fish; but if a man be found angling in another's water, (without leave) he is fined very high by the court of that town, if he only catches a single *gudgeon*, &c.

Of the rivers that empty themselves into the *Thames*, and of others which are not far from it, I shall begin with those on the north-side.

1. *Ilford-river*, the upper part of which abounds with *roach*, *dace*, and some *perch*, but between *Ilford* and the *Thames*, especially about three miles from the town, there is *pike*.

2. *Woodford-river*, stored with *perch*, *chub*, *roach*, and *dace*.

3. *Stratford-river*, affords the angler good diversion for *roach*, *dace*, *chub*, *perch*, &c.

4. *Bow-river*, having the same fish in it, as the *Stratford-river*.

5. *Hackney-river*, having plenty of large *barbel*, *chub*, *roach*, *dace*, *gudgeon*, *eels* and *lampreys*. In this river the *barbels*, *eels* and *gudgeon* are very fine.

6. *Waltham-river*, besides large *barbel*, *chub*, *roach*, *dace*, *gudgeon*, and *eels*, has good store of fine *pike*, and some *carp*.

7. The

7. The *New-river*, pretty well stored with *chub*, *roach*, *dace*, *gudgeon*, and *eels*.

8. *Brentford-river*, a good one formerly, but now much abused by *poachers*; but the angler may meet with some *chub*, *roach*, *dace*, and *perch*.

9. *Hounslow-river*, well stored with *roach*, *dace*, *perch*, *pike*, and *gudgeon*.

The *power-mill tail*, near *Hounslow*, is a very good place for angling.

10. *Colne-river*, abounding with *chub*, *roach*, *dace*, *perch*, and *pike*.

11. *Uxbridge-river*, excellent for its large and fat *trouts*; but as the water is rented, not only leave must be obtained to angle in it; but you must pay so much per pound for what you kill. *Denham*, near *Uxbridge*, is a very famous place. ●

Having now done with the north-side, I proceed to the south of the *Thames*.

1. *Deptford river*, now very much decayed, and has but a few fish in it, as *roach*, *dace*, and *flounders*; though by chance you meet with a *trout*.

2. *Lewisham-river*, in which are some good *trouts*, large *roach*, *chub*, *gudgeon*, *perch*, and *dace*.

3. *Wandsworth-river*, well stored with *gudgeons*, *dace*, *flounders*, *perch*, *pike*, and some *carp* and *trouts*: very large silver *eels* are often taken here.

4. *Mitcham-river*, its principal fish are *trouts*.

5. *Martin-river*, for *trouts* also.

6. *Car-*

6. *Carshalton-river*, abounding with *trouts* and other white fish.

7. *Moulsey-river*, yielding *perch*, *jack*, *roach*, *dace*, *chub*, *gudgeons*, some *flounders*, a few *trouts*, and *barbel*.

8. *Essex-river*, good for *jacks*, *perch*, *chub*, *roach*, *dace*, *gudgeons*, *eels*, *flounders*, *barbels*, and *trouts*.

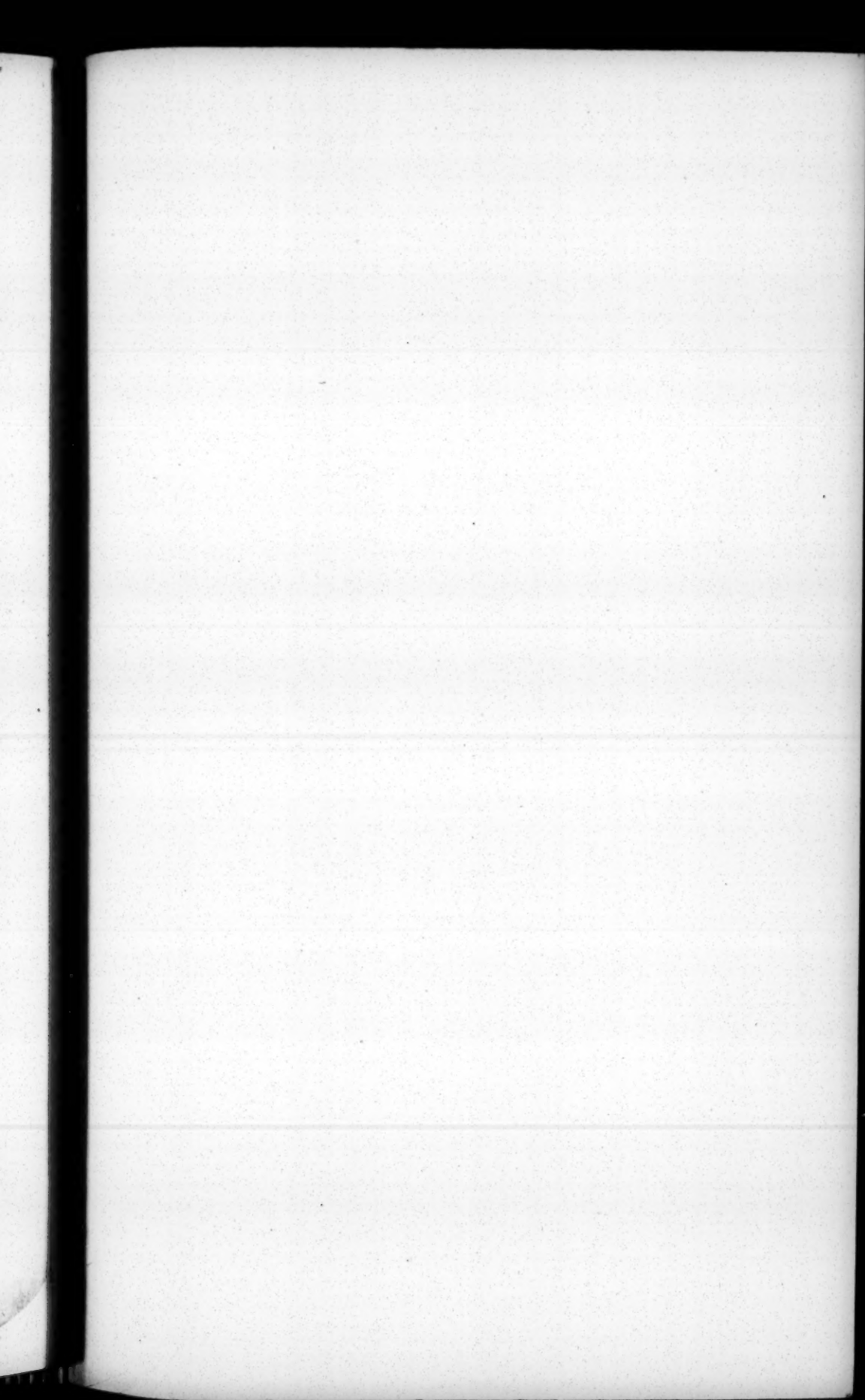
9. *Cobham-river*, stored with plenty of good *trouts*, fat and large, as also *dace*, *perch*, *chubs*, *jacks*, and *gudgeons*.

10. *Weybridge-river*, affording good diversion for *carp*, some of which weigh eight or nine pounds; also *jack*, *roach*, *dace*, *flounders*, *poies*, large *bleak barbel* and *gudgeons*.

11. *Byfleet-river*, wherein are very large *pikes*, *jacks*, and *tench*; *perch*, of eighteen inches long; good *carp*, large *flounders*, *bream*, *roach*, *dace*, *gudgeons*, *poies*, large *chub*, and *eels*.

I shall now conclude this Treatise, likewise the account of the Thames, and the principal rivers that fall into and compose it, with the following beautiful lines of Mr. *Pope*.

First the fam'd authors of his ancient name,  
The winding *Isis*, and the fruitful *Thame*;  
The *Kennet* swift, for silver eels renown'd;  
The *Lodden* flow, with vendant alders craw'd;  
Cole, whose dark streams his flow'ry islands lave;  
And chalky *Wey*, that rolls a milky wave:  
The blue transparent *Vandalis* appears;  
The gulfy *Lee* his sedgy tresses rears;  
And sullen *Mole*, that hides his diving flood;  
And silent *Darent*, stain'd with Danish blood.







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